

Palestinian recruits leave for training

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A first batch of Palestinian police recruits were given an emotional send-off here Wednesday as they left for training at the Cairo police academy. Family and friends turned out as the two dozen recruits piled into an Israeli bus draped with Palestinian flags and headed for Egypt, where they will spend three months. The Gazans, who are under 30 years old, have completed high school and boast clean Israeli police records, were to travel by road through the Rafat border post. Ibrahim Muhammed, 55, a member of a committee charged with creating a police force in an autonomous Gaza Strip, said the first recruits to receive training in Egypt would provide security to top Palestinian officials.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جريدة الأردن المستقلة الصادرة عن المؤسسة الأردنية للأنباء



Hijacked Russian jet lands in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Hijackers brandishing grenades forced a Russian jetliner with 52 people aboard to land in Norway on Wednesday. Police said the air pirates, believed to be Iranians, asked for political asylum. The twin-engine Tupolev-134 was en route from Azerbaijan when it was hijacked. It was forced to land in Kiev, Ukraine, to take on fuel and an English-speaking Ukrainian navigator before flying to Norway. After the plane landed at the sealed-off and darkened Gardemoen Charter Airport, one man left the jet, was driven to the control tower and then driven back to the plane five minutes later, the national news agency NTB reported. "They wanted to make sure they were really in Oslo," said a police spokesman. "Negotiations are going on in English and Russian." The hijackers asked for political asylum, said the regional police chief. The policeman who drove the hijacker to the control tower said the man displayed a hand grenade and then returned it to his pocket. The pilot said the hijackers threatened the crew with hand grenades and explosives, according to a Russian security spokesman. A police said there were at least three, and possibly four hijackers.

Volume 17 Number 5411

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 1993, RABIE' AL AWAL 29-30, 1414

Price: 150 FKs

Israel must destroy nuclear arms — Baz

CAIRO (AFP) — A top Egyptian official has called for Israel to scrap its declared nuclear arsenal as part of the flourishing peace process in the Middle East. Osama Al Baz, political advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, told official Cairo Radio that weapons of mass destruction in the region should be destroyed if a lasting peace was to be achieved. It was "vital" for Israel to eliminate its nuclear arsenal, he said, adding that "Israel must make a decision on this without delay." Israel has never admitted it possesses nuclear weapons, but experts believe the Jewish state has amassed a formidable nuclear arsenal with the help of the United States and other western countries.

Iran weekly banned

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian authorities have closed a Tehran municipality weekly for allegedly publishing articles favourable to the West, Kayhan newspaper reported Wednesday. No official reasons were given for the suspension of Hamshahri, but Kayhan said it was promoting Western culture. Hamshahri, which is owned by Tehran's Mayor Gholamhosseini Karbaschi, generally deals with social problems — particularly those affecting young people. Hamshahri also publishes a popular morning daily under the same name.

Bomb kills two on Pakistani bus

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — A bomb exploded aboard a crowded bus in central Pakistan Wednesday, killing two people and seriously injuring nine, police said. A local police official said a bomb caused the powerful explosion near the front of the bus that killed two passengers in Sherokana village about 25 kilometres south of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore. Nine people were seriously injured, including one man who remained in critical condition after both his legs were amputated, the official said by telephone from the nearby town of Kasur. Many others were slightly hurt. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. The police official said the attack could be an attempt to sabotage general elections set for Oct. 6.

Rafsanjani, Yeltsin discuss conflicts

NICOSIA (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran and Boris Yeltsin of Russia discussed the conflicts in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan by telephone on Wednesday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. Their conversation came amid efforts to defuse the explosive situation created by the advance of Armenian forces outside the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan and the spread of fighting close to the Iranian and Turkish borders. Representatives from Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh began talks in Moscow on Sunday. They have agreed to renew a shaky ceasefire and to continue peace talks aimed at ending their five-year conflict.

Israelis, PLO to meet at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Israel's U.N. ambassador and the Palestine Liberation Organization's envoy to the world body are expected to meet for the first time next week, the Israeli delegation spokesman said Wednesday. "We are hoping to have a meeting sometime next week," spokesman Avner Tavori said, adding that Ambassador Gad Yaacobi and Palestinian envoy Nasser Al-Kidwa would meet at U.N. headquarters in New York. Mr. Yaacobi would like to discuss among other topics the approximately 30 resolutions condemning Israel that the General Assembly adopted at the request of Arab states, the spokesman said. Certain Arab countries would support a freezing of these resolutions, said some U.N. diplomats. A text, adopted in 1975, equating Zionism with racism, was abrogated late in 1991 in the aftermath of the Madrid peace conference. Earlier Wednesday, a high-ranking Israeli official said Israeli diplomats had been authorized Monday to meet with PLO representative anywhere in the world.

King welcomes accord, hopes all concerned will shoulder responsibilities



AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday described the agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a tremendous breakthrough in the search for peace in the Middle East and expressed hope that all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict would shoulder their responsibilities to achieving peace in the region.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN), the King also said Jordan and Israel, which on Tuesday signed an agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement, face many problems to be tackled between them.

Following is a transcript of the interview:

Q: What exactly in terms of compensation are you asking for?
A: I am not asking for anything. This has to be worked out. And it is of two levels: On the level of people, regarding their properties and rights there, if they choose to exercise their rights, and on the other hand if I believe that it is their right to have. We were right to have accepted and pushed forward the multilateral talks earlier on and there was not much appreciation on that at the time of our return?

Q: How would the existence of a Palestinian entity, possible Palestinian state, affect Jordan, not demographically but psychologically, given the enormous Palestinian population here in Jordan?

(Continued on page 5)

A: In Jordan, the people of this country are members of one family with the same rights, regardless of their origins until such time as we figure out later on if any would choose otherwise or if any would have any other ideas regarding the future. But until then, we are one family, one people, and will continue to be. And incidentally the question of return or compensation is the one that has to be addressed obviously in the coming period. Whether it is the Palestinian who has become part of this country or any Palestinian anywhere else in the world, that does not affect his rights regarding the optional return or compensation.

Q: What exactly in terms of compensation are you asking for?

A: I am not asking for anything. This has to be worked out. And it is of two levels: On the level of people, regarding their properties and rights there, if they choose to exercise their rights, and on the other hand if I believe that it is their right to have. We were right to have accepted and pushed forward the multilateral talks earlier on and there was not much appreciation on that at the time of our return?

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(Continued on page 5)

Arafat returns to Tunis to face continued opposition

Combined agency dispatches

peace accord was "an important and essential achievement on the path to accomplishing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

"God willing, it will pave the way for similar peace accord on all Arab fronts."

"It started with Palestine. Yesterday it was Jordan, and later on it will be Syria and Lebanon," Mr. Arafat predicted.

"I think the Americans have discovered Yasser Arafat — the man they had delusioned, the man they associated with terrorism for so many years. Now they saw a human being, a man with a cause," Dr. Erakat said. "We have made friends there."

On Arrival, Mr. Arafat praised U.S. President Bill Clinton, with whom he met privately after Monday's ceremony.

But he faces widespread opposition, not only among PLO leaders and hardline factions, but among many of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Opponents complain the peace plan does not guarantee the creation of an independent Palestinian state or the return of re-

gionees from the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars, and ignores the crucial and emotive issue of the status of Jerusalem.

Saeb Erakat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team who accompanied Mr. Arafat, said the trip was very important for PLO-U.S. relations.

The PLO headquarters are in Tunis, hot Mr. Arafat plans to move soon to the West Bank town of Jericho, which will be granted limited self-rule along with the Gaza Strip in the first phase of the peace plan.

He was greeted at the airport, amidst tight security, by hundreds of Palestinian supporters.

But he faces widespread opposition, not only among PLO leaders and hardline factions, but among many of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

"I can say now that the Palestinian people have a good friend at the White House," said Mr. Arafat.

He described his talks with Mr. Clinton as "warm, positive and cordial."

(Continued on page 5)

tions would improve when regional tensions subside, although in some areas Israel might dominate.

But officials ask: Will peace dividends achieve economic prosperity or economic development for Jordan, considering that the implications of both are not the same?

The immediate effects of the PLO-Israel accord have partially contributed to temporary slowdowns in Jordan's economy, according to bankers and real estate agents (see story on page 3).

Although officials contend that it is still premature to predict the economic ramifications of the PLO-Israeli accord, the most immediate concern was the possibility of Israeli infiltration of Arab markets by using the Palestinian self-rule area as a bridge.

Jordanian officials said they want to reach agreements with the Palestinian self-rule authorities and with Israel, but they refuse to normalize relations with Israel before a final

settlement is reached.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani said that an interim period is required to test Israeli intentions towards Arabs, and not vice versa. He said that Jordan refuses to deal with Israel on the basis that it would monopolise the benefits from the Palestinian economy and try to dominate Arab economies.

Officials said Jordan, at this stage, does not want to deal directly with the Israeli economy. Instead it wants to be able to trade freely with the Palestinian self-rule authorities without Israeli restriction on its exports. But the fact that free trade exists between the Palestinian and Israeli markets, would de facto make Jordan an exporter to Israel.

Jordanian officials said they want to reach agreements with the Palestinian self-rule authorities and with Israel, but they refuse to normalize relations with Israel before a final

settlement so that they will not enter the Israeli market freely," a Jordanian official said. "They are trying to have the cake and eat it too."

The official, who did not want to be identified by name, said the PLO-Israeli agreement gave Palestinians jurisdiction on direct taxes and not indirect taxes, and that is why they want to subject Jordanian goods to certain regulations on the bridges, such as security checks, tariffs, specifications etc...

"We cannot accept Israeli tariffs on our exports to the Palestinian economy. We have to look into that situation, and I think since tariffs are a detail we don't know much about, it will have to be negotiated," Dr. Anani said.

He said during the ninth round of talks, the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks submitted a list of Jordanian commodities that it wants to export to the occupied territories: "Israel proposed Jordan export goods worth \$15

million. But this is a very low ceiling, and those are goods which Israel does not levy taxes on anyway, such as head-dresses and some food stuffs."

According to Dr. Anani Jordan could export goods worth of \$300 million, such as raw materials, construction materials, home appliances, electric goods, certain food items, petroleum products, electricity, etc... These make up 30 per cent of Jordan's exports."

"We think it is to the advantage of the occupied territories to have much closer economic ties with Jordan and a higher volume of trade because Jordan can supply a great deal of those goods to the Palestinian market for much lower prices than Israelis."

He said that if Palestinians continue to import Israeli commodities, parts of the subsidies going to the Palestinian economy will eventually be indirect subsidies for the Israeli economy via trade.

Officials said they expect vicious competition with Israel

Palestinian killed, Gaza Strip shut

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The army on Wednesday announced a four-day closure of the Gaza Strip for the Jewish new year weekend, and a Palestinian was killed in a clash in the occupied territories in which four Israeli soldiers also were wounded.

The closure barring Palestinians from entering Israel is a routine practice on Jewish holidays, as a precaution to prevent violence.

This year, apparently in deference to the peace accord signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), it was not being applied to the occupied West Bank. Most violence lately against Israel has originated in Gaza.

The measure went in effect at 1400 (1200 GMT) Wednesday and lasts until 0300 a.m. (0100 GMT) Sunday, Sept. 19. The army said that the movement ban would only be in one direction, and that Palestinians would be permitted to return from Israel to Gaza during the holiday.

After two suicide bomb attacks this week, thousands of police and civil guards were deployed.

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin: Syria must prove it wants peace

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hailed the possibility of true peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon on Wednesday but said Syria still had to demonstrate it wanted peace.

"Syria has to demonstrate its desire for peace," Mr. Rabin told Israel's army radio in a Jewish new year's eve address.

"After six months, it would be possible to come to the forging of a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel, comprehensive peace... we would then withdraw to the international border," he said.

In Washington on Monday, Israel and the PLO signed a historic peace accord for limited Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied lands for an interim five-year period.

On Tuesday, Jordan and Israel initiated an agenda in Washington for an eventual peace accord.

Israel has been in peace talks with the Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria for almost two years. It has yet to break a deadlock in talks with Syria and Lebanon.

In Damascus, a presidential spokesman said U.S. President Bill Clinton told Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday Washington was committed to

"Regarding Lebanon, I think it

(Continued on page 5)

Polls show majority of Israelis back accord

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV

Polls published by two newspapers Wednesday showed that about 60 per cent of Israelis support the peace agreement with the Palestinians, but that nearly half also believed it could bring an upsurge in violence.

A survey in the Yediot Ahronot daily found 61 per cent favoured the accord signed Monday in Washington granting Palestinians self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

It found that 51 per cent believed it would increase Palestinian violence in coming months.

The leader of Israel's Likud opposition party accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of planning to use a future Palestinian state to pursue its war against Israel.

Binjamin Netanyahu said on Britain's Sky Television he was disappointed at PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech in Washington Monday at the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace deal.

A survey published Monday by the Jerusalem Post daily also found about 60 per cent of Israelis behind the agreement.

A poll in the daily Maariv Wednesday found 58 per cent supported the agreement, with 31 per cent opposed, and the rest undecided.

In addition, 47 per cent of Israelis asked by Maariv about whether they expected an in-

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan and the economics of the autonomy agreement

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

tions would improve when regional tensions subside, although in some areas Israel might dominate.

But officials ask: Will peace dividends achieve economic prosperity or economic development for Jordan, considering that the implications of both are not the same?

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"We cannot accept Israeli tariffs on our exports to the Palestinian economy. We have to look into that situation, and I think since tariffs are a detail we don't know much about, it will have to be negotiated," Dr. Anani said.

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Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 1992

Gulf states to join aid for Palestinians

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Wealthy Gulf Arab states are set to join an international effort to secure emergency aid for Palestinians when they run their own economy under an autonomy agreement with Israel.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are in contact to determine how much to subscribe to a proposed aid package for the Gaza Strip when it takes shape, Gulf officials said.

"The contacts are designed to coordinate the assistance but there are no specific proposals yet until the extent of the international package is determined," said a GCC official, who asked not to be named.

Although most of them still blame the Palestine Liberation Organisation for supporting Iraq during the Gulf war, the GCC members have backed the PLO-Israeli accord on limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The two sides signed the deal Monday in an historic ceremony in Washington.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in another reconciliation effort, made his first contact with Saudi Arabia since the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Arafat told the Egyptian satellite television station late Monday he had sent a letter to Saudi King Fahd about the accord and that the king was behind the GCC's support.

"When I met Sultan Qaboos of Oman last week, he informed me King Fahd was behind this important statement by the GCC foreign ministers," he said.

Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, told an Israeli paper: "We support the peace process between Israel and the Arab countries ... proof of our country's involvement and our engagement will come out in broad daylight soon."

PLO and Israeli leaders have stressed that economic revival in the autonomous territories was

vital for the survival of the peace deal.

"Peace remains fragile without a strong economy and the economy cannot improve without peace. Both are interdependent," said Yousef Khalifa, economics professor at the Emirates University.

Economic performance in the territories has steadily worsened due to Israeli occupation, the six-year-old Palestinian uprising and the Gulf war, according to official Arab reports.

The worst stage was recorded after 1987, when the gross domestic product began to decline rapidly due to the uprising and strikes. From \$1.7 billion that year, the GDP plummeted to \$1.2 billion in 1990 and was expected to have continued declining the following two years.

After peaking at \$290 million in 1989, remittances plunged to \$150 million in 1990 due to the Gulf war. Public and private investment dipped by more than five per cent while the total national income to \$1.9 billion in 1990 from \$2.6 billion in 1987.

The PLO has chalked out a revival plan to inject \$11.6 billion in the territories until the year 2000. The World Bank said \$3 billion were needed in emergency aid.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said last week King Fahd had promised to contribute to the aid package. Sultan Qaboos has also assured Mr. Arafat of assistance.

The GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have remained key aid donors despite a sharp decline in their oil earnings. They have provided more than \$2 billion to the PLO since 1970.

Diplomats said Kuwait was expected to join the aid efforts despite its rift with Mr. Arafat. The UAE, the third largest Gulf aid donor, also said it would support the package.

Mr. Clinton told the news conference that his administration

Clinton considers meeting of donors

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he was considering calling a donors' meeting of interested European, Asian and Arab countries to put together a financial package for the Palestinians.

A day after presiding over a historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Clinton said he was looking for ways to keep up the momentum of the Middle Eastern breakthrough.

He said a good example was a surprise visit on Tuesday to Morocco's King Hassan by Mr. Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres flew to Rabat hours after signing an accord at the White House with the PLO on Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Clinton said he hoped other Arab leaders would make similar conciliatory moves toward Israel.

"I was very pleased because I think the king may have set an example which I hope other Arab states will consider following now to try to continue just to establish a dialogue," Mr. Clinton said at a joint news conference with visiting Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The Palestinians will require a larger sum once they begin taking care of their own needs.

Under the Israel-PLO agreement, authority for education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism is transferred on October 13 from Israel to "authorised Palestinians" in the West Bank and Gaza.

The World Bank proposed on Sunday a \$3 billion, 10-year economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip designed to increase the chances for a lasting peace.

Mr. Clinton told the news conference that his administration

was trying to organise "an appropriate level of investment."

"In that regard, we're looking primarily at maybe having a donors' meeting, trying to bring in interested European countries and Asian countries and Arab countries to talk about how we can put together the kind of package we ought to have," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton also said the United States was trying to further the peace process by encouraging further political contacts between Arabs and Israelis and helping Palestinians address practical problems of self-rule such as elections and economic endeavours.

Last weekend Mr. Clinton said he expected most of the aid would come from Japan, the European Community, Scandinavia and the oil-rich Gulf states.

In a special report on the occupied territories, the World Bank said an urgent need for a major upgrading of public services to improve living conditions in the West Bank and Gaza — new power plants, water and wastewater projects, roads and schools.

UNESCO offers help

A U.N. agency said Tuesday it would help bolster the Israel-PLO peace accord by offering assistance in the region in the fields of education, science and culture.

Federico Mayor, director general of the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), hailed the accord in a statement.

"Peace it must be built day by day on the basis of mutual trust taught by education, which forges the mind, by the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge, which helps development, and by respect for each other's culture."

UNESCO, present in the Middle East in times of war, would continue its work there in the future, the statement added.

Libya signals Pan Am case cooperation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Libya has said the two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, could go on trial in Britain or the United States providing legal procedures were fair and U.N. sanctions were lifted as soon as they surrendered.

In a letter delivered to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the Libyan government set out 17 demands on due process of law if the two surrendered.

The 40-page document, parts of which were obtained by Reuters Tuesday, also asked for concrete pledges from the United States and Britain that sanctions would be lifted rather than suspended as soon as the men surrendered.

In addition, it said that if the two men, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, went to trial Libya should not be subject to compensation payments or have any of its assets seized.

U.S. and British diplomats said guarantees could probably be given on the legal procedures if the two surrendered, presumably to Scotland. But they said they would have more difficulties on sanctions and other Libyan government demands.

Libya took care to divorce the government from any surrendering of the suspects.

"The fact that there is no valid agreement between Libya and the USA and the UK on the extradition of criminals, Libya cannot force the two suspects to turn themselves over to either of the two countries," the letter said.

But it was "up to the suspects to decide whether to appear before the competent court in either of the two countries... and prove that they are not guilty," it added.

Libya's ambassador to Tunisia, Ahdal Ati Al Obeidi, who brought the letter, was expected to go to Paris on Wednesday to negotiate with French officials before returning to New York for a U.S. and British response to the document.

"Everything will depend on what they (the accused) and their lawyers will receive on their inquiries," he said on Monday. "In principle they are ready to stand trial."

The United States and Britain in November 1991 issued arrest warrants for the two men, for the alleged planting of the bomb that killed all 259 people aboard Pan Am flight 103 from London to New York as well as 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie.

In April 1992, the Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo against Libya if the two were not handed over. It also demanded Libya cooperate with a French investigation into the mid-air bombing of UTA Flight 772, which blew up over Niger in 1989. All 171 people on board were killed.

In addition, the resolution asked for concrete evidence that Libya had denounced ties with all terrorist groups.

More recently, the United States, Britain and France proposed further sanctions including a ban on oil refinery and transport — but not oil drilling — equipment and freezing some Libyan assets if there was no action by October.

Excluded from the assets would be any future oil revenues

Britain rejects Libyan terms

LONDON (AFP) — Britain Wednesday dismissed Libya's latest conditions for surrender of two men implicated in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that claimed 270 lives, saying an Oct. 1 compliance deadline remained firm.

A spokesman said the Foreign Office was studying the 40-page letter Libya delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Tuesday and would be consulting with Dr. Ghali's office.

"But we note that there is no commitment to surrender the accused even if all points in the letter are answered," said the spokesman.

"There is no clear indication that Libya is prepared to comply with the Security Council resolutions."

Earlier after the new embargo went into force.

In the letter, Libya said the United States and Britain should guarantee not to use demands on "terrorism" as an excuse to continue sanctions.

Libya's requests for legal protection for the suspects included pledges the men would not be questioned by intelligence agents, would not be subject to plea bargaining to reduce their sentence, would not be tortured and would have access to defence lawyers at all times.

Following are the main points of the Libyan letter:

— Queries on how an impartial

court could be selected in view of widespread media coverage.

— Pledges by the United States and Britain that the accused would not be questioned by domestic or foreign intelligence authorities.

— Assurances defence lawyers were present during any questioning and the accused could be visited by members of the United Nations, The Arab League and the Arab Lawyers Union to make sure they were not tortured.

— Assurances they would not be offered "plea bargaining" deals" or "enticement" in exchange for a lesser sentence or attempts to turn them into state's witnesses.

— Queries on what would happen if a jury was unable to reach a verdict.

— Assurances the trial would be limited to incidents related to Pan Am Flight 103 only and no other allegations.

— Guarantees the two would return home immediately if they were found innocent or after their sentence ended, if convicted.

— Guarantees they would not be handed over to a third country under any circumstances and regardless of the reasons.

— Requests for negotiations among prosecuting and trial authorities under the supervision of the U.N. Secretary-general to stipulate provisions for their voluntary appearance.

Those pertaining to the Libyan government include:

— Guarantees that no assets or funds be seized as compensation for the airline crash, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

— Pledges to lift Security Council sanctions as soon as the suspects reach a court.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ahmad Odhman 786384

Dr. Adnan Al Zghoul 889140

Dr. Ghaleb Zawieh 736011

Dr. Yousef Abd 669416

Dr. Hisham Al-Saleh 661012

First Pharmacy 673036

Al Asmaa Pharmacy 637035

Safirah Pharmacy 636730

Al-Salam Pharmacy 644945

Sunessi Pharmacy 637660

Najib Pharmacy 847632

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 22 / 37

Aqaba 27 / 40

Deserts 19 / 39

Jordan Valley 26 / 40

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 36.6, Aqaba 36, Humidity reading: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and dry weather conditions will continue with light and variable winds becoming northwesterly in Aqaba, which will gradually decrease and calm.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Police 199 / 199

Royal Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Armenian Municipality 661111

Corporation 787411

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Jordanian Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Al-Jazeera Television 773111

Post Office 661111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority E1515

Electric Power 982799

Khalidh Pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

Company 630381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Qecca Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN:



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits Al Mafraq Hospital and is briefed by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas on services offered by some of the hospital's new units (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen visits Al Mafraq Hospital, inspects new kidney dialysis unit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited Al Mafraq Hospital and inspected its different wards which serve a population of 160,000 in Al Mafraq governorate.

The Queen inaugurated the hospital's new intensive care and special care baby units, and visited the kidney dialysis section which has recently been established at the hospital with four new dialysis machines donated, through the Queen's efforts; by the French non-governmental organisation, "Transport Humanitaire Sans Frontiere" (THSF).

Queen Noor was briefed on the different services offered by the hospital particularly those of the new dialysis section which has been fully furnished and equipped by the Ministry of Health and will start treating kidney patients on Sunday, Sept. 19.

President of the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society (FKPS), and Al Bashir Hospital Director, Makram Naseif said there are more than 850 patients with kidney failure problems in Jordan. He added that there is an increase in kidney patients in the Kingdom especially among women of childbearing age with a record of

multiple pregnancies, and among children with a record of severe infections.

The FKPS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will soon launch health education campaigns tackling the prevention of kidney failure problems, he said.

Jordan's expenditure on kidney failure treatment exceeds JD 4 million annually as dialysis services cost about JD 850 per month for each patient. The Ministry of Health provides the dialysis free of charge.

There are only 84 dialysis machines in Jordan: 80 in public hospitals and four in private ones.

Earlier this year, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) identified areas in Jordan in need of dialysis machines and liaised between THSF, the Ministry of Health and FKPS to ensure that the donated machines are installed in areas which lack the service or which need to expand existing services.

THSF donated eight machines to NHF, four to Al Mafraq Hospital and four will be housed at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman to expand existing services.

NHF also received from THSF

some medical equipment and a tonne of milk. THSF is a non-governmental, non-profit global humanitarian aid organisation established in 1991.

Queen Noor also visited NHF's

Al Rayy Garment Production Scheme which helps Al Mafraq women improve their living standards through gainful sustainable employment.

The project employs more than 40 women who produce good quality, price-competitive garments, costumes and children's clothes mainly sold in the local market through tenders.

Al Rayy Garment Production Scheme is one of seven pilot projects which NHF is implementing under its Women in Development Programme benefitting hundreds of women and their families across the country.

The Queen was accompanied on the visit by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas, NHF President In'am Mufti and Mrs. Dafouk Al-Danai, a friend of NHF.

Queen Noor was received upon arrival at Al Mafraq by the governor, the chief of police there and senior Ministry of Health staff.

King appoints Tamimi as Chief Islamic Justice

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday appointed former Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi as Chief Islamic Justice, succeeding Sheikh Nouf Salman Al Qudah who was retired earlier this month.

The King, in a message to Sheikh Tamimi, paid tribute to him and said he would retain his post as advisor to the King on Islamic Affairs in addition to the new post.

King Hussein said he wanted Sheikh Tamimi also to follow up on matters pertaining to the holy places of Jerusalem, including Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, as well as the restructuring of the Saladin minbar.

"I am confident that you are capable of handling this task and will shoulder all these responsibilities with loyalty and faithfulness," King Hussein said in his message.

The King praised the new chief justice for his integrity and his dedication throughout his years.

Sheikh Tamimi served at one time as Grand Mufti of the Kingdom.

Activists propose judicial record system

By Rana Hassoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A one-day seminar was held Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre to introduce a new judicial record system for individuals.

The event was organised by the National Association for Social Defence (NASD) in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

According to the NASD, the drafters of the proposed judicial record system, implementation of this system will benefit the judiciary process and individuals in Jordan.

"We do have records to keep track of individuals who are convicted, but they are scattered and unorganised," said Minister of Justice Rateb Al Wazani who addressed the seminar.

The proposed system calls for each citizen to have a judiciary record as a document to use when applying for a job, running for elections or applying for membership in professional unions or associations.

If a person is convicted of a crime, the judicial record will include pertinent information concerning the individual and the crime committed.

The main purpose is to safeguard the rights of convicts by stipulating in the record what kind of crime the individual has committed, rather than allow him/her to be labelled in a discriminatory manner, according to the NASD, a non-governmental organisation aimed at educating the public on crime prevention.

NASD officials believe that by presenting such records, individuals stand a better chance of securing a job if the crime was not major.

For convicts who keep repeating the same crime and are considered dangerous to society, the records could accumulate a number of felonies which could deny them the privilege of a general amnesty.

Jordan lacks such a criminal record system, while other countries in the region have already implemented it in their judicial processes.

Minister Wazani stressed the importance of introducing this proposed judicial record system in Jordan, saying "it is better to start late than never start at all."

The judiciary record will be viewed by the Legislative Board, which is expected to recommend it to the Parliament for approval.

Majali urges education directors to encourage students to volunteer

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Wednesday urged directors of education to work towards encouraging school students to actively participate in voluntary work which would benefit them as well as their country.

Speaking at a meeting with the directors serving in the various governorates to open schools during the summer holidays for various extra curricular activities and encourage the participation of teachers and students.

He said each week teachers should take time out to discuss with their students matters not related to the text book curricula in an effort to help narrow the gap between teacher and student and enhance mutual confidence.

Acknowledging students to take part in voluntary work and interacting freely with teachers are means of strengthening the fabric of the community, said the prime minister.

The prime minister urged the government to encourage regular meetings between teachers and school administrators and supervisors to discuss relevant issues.

Dr. Majali said the decentral-



Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with education directors at the Ministry of Education (Petra photo)

isation policy adopted by the government would allow departments in the provinces to appoint teachers in their respective regions.

Decentralisation is being adopted at all levels in order to make government employees feel

that they are partners in shouldering the responsibility of the central government, he added.

At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister listened to the views of the directors on examinations, the ministry's budget

and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Majali said the ministry ought to re-study the General Secondary School Examinations.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri was present at the meeting.

Market activities normal despite uncertainties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the uncertainties of the impact of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement on the Jordanian economy, market activities in the Kingdom remain more or less normal, and fluctuations in certain sectors have not much to do with the peace process; economists say the decline is normal during the week.

Most other sectors of the economy reported business as usual. Sales of household items such as televisions, refrigerators, video and washing machines have gone down, but agents and stockists say the decline is normal during the week.

Brokers at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the Kingdom's bourse, said a credit squeeze on commercial banks resulting from a ceiling imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on their involvement in the stock market and the emergence of new companies had shifted the focus away from trading on the floor over the past three months.

Real estate agents said very few deals were taking place, but they attributed the decline to a levelling-off of demand created by Jordanian expatriates who returned home in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Car dealers complained that there were few buyers in the market. Again, the situation was a result of expectations that the Ministry of Finance:

was poised to announce a cut in customs duties for vehicles, a move that officials ruled out early this week.

"Things are picking up this week," he said, pointing out that the daily average trading this week was expected to be around JD 2.5 million. "Prices of some shares which lost heavily in August are also going up."

The daily average trading at the AFM last week was around JD 1.2 million, a plunge from the comparative figure of JD 5 million to JD 6 million since the beginning of the year.

Stock market officials say that there has been a steady flow of capital from the secondary market, where the shares of established companies are traded, to the primary market, where first issues are offered.

The officials point out that primary market dealings are not entered into the books of the AFM until the floatations are complete and thus excluded from the daily trading figures.

"Trading at the AFM is the best barometer that Jordanian businessmen follow," said Dr. Fabed Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist for

the Jordan Times. "The number of transactions has shrunk, but the volume as picked up, indicating that what over the past weeks was only a natural phenomenon."

Walid Jabri of Abdun Real Estate said there was a market decline, and prices of land in and around Amman, among the highest in the Middle East, were going down. The situation was also reflected in rents, he said.

"People are watching the situation and would not like to get into land sale or purchase at a time of uncertainty," said Dr. Fanek. "I expect the situation to return to normal soon."

Mr. Jabri agreed. "Once things settle down, the market will be back to normal, in terms of not only land prices but also rent."

But Mahmud Jarrar, another estate agent, disagreed.

"The demand created by the massive wave of returnees from the Gulf has levelled off," Mr. Jarrar said. "There are few buyers in the market, and that is why prices have also gone down."

60 firms to display products in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Wednesday announced that it is organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Morocco on Sept. 18.

Sixty Jordanian firms will display samples of their products at the Casablanca fair which will last for 10 days, said JEDCO.

It said the fair aims to orient the Moroccan public on the high quality products manufactured in Jordan.

JTA Deputy Board Chairman Kamal Kakish said the fair, which was held between Aug. 30 and

Sept. 5, was a first step by the association to encourage trade exchanges between Poland and Jordan.

The Polish markets can easily absorb many of the Jordanian products because of their high quality and competitiveness, said Mr. Kakish.

Goods similar to those Jordan displayed at the Warsaw fair are either in short supply in Poland or sold for very high prices, Mr. Kakish said.

He added that many Jordanian business persons conducted talks with Polish importers aimed at concluding trade deals, many of which were already concluded during the week-long fair.

According to Mr. Kakish, samples of Jordanian paints, cooking ranges, shampoo, soap, chemical detergents, biscuits, car batteries, glue, ready-made garments, foods, syringes, perambulators, umbrellas, plastic pipes, carpet, aluminium ladders, Dead Sea salts, tissue paper, stationery, kitchen utensils, furniture and car filters were displayed.

U.S. medical team to treat war victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — The New York-based Medicine for Peace organisation is expected to dispatch a medical team to Amman next March to provide free treatment to Iraqi victims of the Gulf war, mainly children, as well as severely injured patients from Jordan.

Mohammed Al Hadid, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), told the Jordan Times that the team's three-week visit coincides with the opening of the new JNRCS

run Hilal Hospital where the Iraqi war victims will undergo plastic and eye surgeries along with other patients from Jordan.

The Medicine for Peace organisation, Dr. Hadid explained, was created in the wake of Gulf war in 1991 and has since sent several teams to Iraq to examine injured children. The organisation sent several of these children to the United States for treatment, said Dr. Hadid.

He said that group has prom-

ised to send the team to Amman to try to treat the victims here instead of sending them abroad.

The JNRCS president, who is an advisory member of the U.S. organisation, said he had requested that the medical team be sent to Jordan.

"We will benefit from the free medical services and the modern techniques the team normally used in the treatment of war victims," Dr. Hadid said.

While he was in New York



WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Beladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Munther Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Elkair at

Paintings exhibition by Amor Annes and Salam Kanaan at the Alia Art Gallery.

- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Clay" exhibition at Darat Al Funan in Jabal Lotteh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshabka Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Citizen Kane" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة توب توب يومية مستقلة تصدر باللغة العربية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and Advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Agenda plus principles

AN IN-DEPTH reading of the "agenda" that Jordan and Israel have signed in Washington Tuesday, a day after the signing at the White House of the PLO-Israeli agreement, is only in part an agenda. The rest of the Jordanian-Israeli accord is in fact about principles and guidelines that govern the two sides' search for peace. Take for example the first article of the "agenda" where there is a mention of the ultimate objectives of the two states. The stipulation that the attainment of a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab parties to the Madrid peace conference is not exactly an agenda item but rather a basic declaration of principles. When it is stated that the search for this peace is to be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, then that statement should be understood to go beyond the articulation of an agenda topic. The second provision that deals with security makes the character and nature of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement even clearer as more than a mere agenda. Through the pledge by the two parties not to "threaten each other by any use of force," or to refrain from actions that may "adversely affect the security of the other," the two countries are in fact making commitments that are lasting and binding. The same analogy may also apply to the other dimensions of the agreement such as the commitment to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Where the text drifts back to a mere agenda are the references to subjects such as water, refugees, exploration, cooperation in natural resources, water, energy, labour, health, tourism etc. In these areas their mention is clearly made in the context of topics to be discussed and agreed upon in the future and within the context of the final peace treaty.

In the final analysis, the "agenda" agreement is not unimportant when it is taken as a whole unit. There is enough spelling of principles and guidelines to make it more far reaching than what is actually made out to be. It took the negotiating teams of the two countries nearly one year to come up with the signed text. To view the document as merely a chronological of issues that will be discussed and negotiated in the future would render the exercise as neither time nor cost-effective.

Still, Jordan is not about to accept a unilateral final peace deal with Israel no matter how advanced the negotiating process might be. Just as the timing of the accord on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda was deliberately delayed till the Palestinian side reached agreement with the Israeli government, there is no question about the decision of Jordan to put off final agreement till the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese have concluded a final peace pact. In the end, it makes no difference whether the "agenda" agreed is only an agenda or an agenda plus, since the permanent status will not be determined unless and until there is a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement on all fronts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NEITHER THE PLO-Israeli deal nor the Jordanian-Israeli agenda which was endorsed Tuesday can erase the hatred between the Arabs and the Israelis except with the end of the Zionist lust for Arab blood, said Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. The paper said it is true that the deals mark the start of a long process aiming at peace, but the aspired peace cannot be fulfilled unless Zionism's ambitious plans in the Arab region are terminated. The paper said that the Israeli Jews should recognise the Arabs' humanitarian values and should respect the feelings of the Arab people so that the aspired dream of just peace can be achieved. We had hoped that U.N. Security Council resolutions of 1967 and 1973 would be implemented in full compliance with the international legitimacy and not as result of de facto situation, said the paper. It said that following the collapse of the Soviet empire and the aggression on Iraq, the ground was cleared for the Madrid conference... on the planned U.S.-sponsored peace formula. It is a de facto situation and a de facto solution, not an implementation of the U.N. resolution, the paper added. The solution is not based on the principles of the world unopposed, said the paper. This solution, it said is unjust because it does not cater to the requirements of the international legitimacy or international principles.

Problems within the lobby and the Jewish community

By Dr. James Zogby

Following is the last of a four-part article in which the writer, president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute, examines the source of the Jewish lobby power and the roots of its current internal political problems.

AIPAC's recent problems (the forced resignations of three of its top officers and a series of embarrassing press exposés) are themselves symptoms of deeper problems plaguing the organisation and the Jewish community. The underlying sources of the lobby's problems can be grouped into four categories.

1. Strains between AIPAC and the Jewish community.
2. Ideological strains within the Jewish community.
3. The arrogance of power and money.
4. Long-term problems resulting from the changing political climate in the U.S.

1. The Jewish community and AIPAC

More than an independent organisation, AIPAC was originally designed to be a lobby for Israel that could provide guidance and information to the other Jewish organisations in the U.S. It was to be a coordinating centre. On its expanded Executive Board sit the heads of the major Jewish organisations — an expression of this intended relationship. This is how it was supposed to be.

Increasingly, however, as AIPAC grew, it began to see itself as a separate entity — in fact as THE "voice of the Jewish community in Washington." And it is this self-characterisation that has caused some tension within the Jewish community.

Temper flared, for example, in the 1980's when the Reagan administration held a meeting with AIPAC's leaders at the White House. The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations immediately protested to the administration that they and not AIPAC represented the American Jewish community.

Once again in 1988, leaders of the U.S.'s three most important Jewish organisations (the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith) blasted AIPAC as being out of step with "the consensus of the organised Jewish community" on key Middle East issues.

What the three mainstream Jewish groups were protesting was AIPAC's heavy-handed lobbying on issues such as opposition to a Kuwaiti arms sale, efforts to shut down the PLO's U.N. office, and a preemptive effort to deny Yasser Arafat a visa to speak at the U.N. The groups were concerned that AIPAC acted in every instance without consultation and used tactics they found objectionable.

In a revealing essay written in the mid-1980s and published by the American Jewish Committee, a prominent Jewish sociologist criticised the lobby, charging that the lobby had created the dangerous perception that the Jewish community was a single issue (i.e., pro-Israel) constituency. This, the paper argued, and the lobby's heavy-handed use of money in politics could, in the long run, reduce Jewish political influence and the support given by other groups to Jewish causes.

So it is that today, as AIPAC is facing internal political problems, there are not many tears being shed within the leadership of the other mainstream Jewish political organisations. When outsiders attack the group, American Jews will support it (as Mr. Bush discovered in 1991). But when AIPAC faces its internal Jewish critics, American Jewish organisations are not willing to provide the same type of support.

2. The arrogance of big money

There is also another dimension to this problem that warrants attention. As AIPAC developed political action committees (PACs) and grew dramatically in size during the 1980s, its need for money and major contributors also grew. From a \$1 million annual budget in mid-1970's to a \$7 million budget (plus accumulated PAC contributions of \$5 million) in 1988, to a budget of almost \$15 million (plus \$5 million in PAC contributions) in 1992 — this growth has also adversely affected the lobby.

As one former AIPAC staff member, who is now a political columnist, recently wrote, with a multi-million dollar budget AIPAC is no longer satisfied with 25 memberships and \$100 donations.

And given its enormous need for funds, it is not enough for the group to be led by a group of savvy staff and a board of seasoned political operators. Now AIPAC must rely on the \$50,000 and \$100,000 donors.

In order to lure them into the organisation, these major contributors have been placed on the AIPAC board. The former AIPAC staff member says that this big money group (including people like the recently resigned President David Steiner and Regional Vice President Harvey Friedman) are a source of AIPAC's problems. They have "big egos" and lack political judgement, he says, and they are arrogant and heavy-handed in their dealings with politicians and other Jewish organisations.

AIPAC's recent problems (the forced resignations of three of its top officers and a series of embarrassing press exposés) are themselves symptoms of deeper problems plaguing the organisation and the Jewish community. The underlying sources of the lobby's problems can be grouped into four categories.

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Weekender

Sept. 16, 1993 A

Published Every Thursday

The late Abdul Rahim Omar's views on
the goals of the literary movement in Jordan

Jordan needs a new outlook on the importance of 'culture and the cultured'

In its first edition, the weekender carried this interview with Jordanian-Palestinian writer Abdul Rahim Omar, who passed away at 64 earlier this week. The interview, which appeared on March 29, 1990, is reprinted in his memory.

An overwhelming oak desk takes up much of the room. The man transmits an aura of wisdom carried with a semi-intimidating flair for criticism. The words flow with strength but are mellowed with a kind smile, a knowing glance and a relaxed posture. The atmosphere is haloed with cramped used books, perhaps read by the writer while listening to the rhythms of classical music, another pastime treasured by the man who now holds the position of president of the Jordan Writers Association. His passage to the Jordan Times WEEKENDER was simple but it gave hope to the orchestrators of this experiment. "Perhaps through you we will be taking the first step towards our goal," Abdul Rahim Omar said.

By Norman Mirad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

LITERATURE is not only interwoven webs that form a beautiful picture, it is a whole movement that depicts a culture and its people. For Jordanian writers and poets, the message has gone out and touched most Arab countries, but it has not yet gained the respect and recognition it deserves locally.

In a recent survey conducted by Jordan Television with university students, results indicated that most university students could not name one Jordanian poet. To the president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), Abdul Rahim Omar, these results indicate that "there are dangerous loopholes in our educational and information systems."

In an interview with Jordan Times WEEKENDER,



Abdul Rahim Omar (64)

ness.

"Education is not receiving the priority it receives in other Arab countries," Omar maintains, pointing a finger at the Ministry of Culture and Information as the main culprit in what he describes as their "lack of proper concern" for developing cultural education.

While Omar believes that the Jordanian literary movement is active and "very much around" in the Arab and international arenas he concedes that "the image of our movement is a lot brighter outside."

The question that immediately comes to mind is why? While Jordanians claim one of the highest percentages of literacy in the Arab World, the ability to read and write does not seem to develop into the deeper uses of these abilities, constructive reading and cultural aware-

existent in Jordan because this type of journalism is usually supported by the official body concerned. This is not done here."

These facts, to Omar, are obviously in contradiction with the high level of unemployment among "the literate" in Jordan.

For while the "professionals are going to waste," the not-so-professionals are running the show. "They do not want to even make use of the talents and abilities that are going to waste. This is difficult to understand, especially that these establishments (cultural and media channels) are criticised because they lack professionals."

The Ministry of Information and its various "official" channels did not escape the criticism of Omar who also believes that the media is not even remotely connected to literary development.

"The literary sections in the different media are very weak and unable to take a much needed initiative to develop literary education," Omar maintains, to him, the whole literary education process is just like any other developing business which requires undivided attention, patience and dedication "as it produces even more important results to the whole nation."

He did not want to get into the details of what he described as "oppressive measures against the literary figures," satisfying himself by saying: "I do not want to mention the tens of writers and poets who had their passports confiscated and were expelled from their jobs becoming excellent candidates for poverty."

Omar believes that the onset of democratisation in the Kingdom adds hope to the development of Jordanian literature but he expresses hope that dealing with the cultural and literary movements will take a turn to the better.

What he believes is needed now is a completely new outlook on the importance of "culture and the cultured," built on the conviction that cultural work is important for the citizens "just as important to him or her as health."

To Omar, the literary and cultural movement will create a human with national commitment to the morals and traditions of the society "able to function in a developing society. Not hindered by backwardness."

Although critical, Omar is full of optimism over the future of the literary movement in Jordan and within the realm of his dissatisfaction lies several rays of hope for development, all sparked by democracy.

"It was obvious that the circle most affected by the absence of democracy was the literary circle. We were target for the most uncivilised measures. Perhaps the closing down of the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) is the best example of these measures," said Omar, who was member of the Executive Committee of the JWA when it was forced closed by a defence law decision in July 1987.

For while the "professionals are going to waste," the not-so-professionals are running the show. "They do not want to even make use of the talents and abilities that are going to waste. This is difficult to understand, especially that these establishments (cultural and media channels) are criticised because they lack professionals."

Diary

~ Tailor with far-sight ~



If you can't beat them, Join them

DUES UNDUELY PAID: It seems that some dirty linen is being washed in public, at least when it comes to tourism and affiliates. In its latest monthly newsletter, the Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) told its members that there was good news: It had received \$79,000 in contributions from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) bus company. The bad news was that the money was spent on the support of fam (familiarisation) trips for travel writers and television crews. "The long awaited payments were made to the Petra Forum, Jordan Inter-Continental and Holiday International hotels," the newsletter said. So far so good. But the catch came when at least one member of the board "revealed" that hotels do not charge anything for "fam" trips. William Sawalha, manager of Alcazar Hotel in Aqaba, in a letter he sent to the Jordan Times last week, accused the board of "misallocating" the contributions, arguing that fam trips are "support services which other hotels provide to travel agents free of charge." A board member countered that JTB (which includes in its membership representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Royal Jordanian, JETT, the Travel Agents Society and hotels) organises fam trips for travel writers, television crews and photojournalists who in turn promote Jordan through their media, adding that the board pays for the visitors' food and transportation and the hotels pay for their accommodation. There is indeed more that meets the eye in the affair, and the question is: How will the donors look at the squabbling and possibilities of scams with their funds?

* * * * *

ROYALTY AT A PARTY: Sharif Nahedh Saadkin Al Zeid, a distant member of the Royal Family, has set a precedent by joining a political party, the Islamic Democratic Leadership (Dua'). In a statement he sent to the press early this week, he said: "... following years of deep intellectual dialogue with an intellectual elite ... and as an Arab Hashemite totally dedicated to the message of Prophet Mohammad, I found in Dua' the only party able to crystallise the Hashemite thought into a concrete philosophical structure that would unleash its dormant powers..." Dua' is an Islamic party that also includes Christians. How constitutional is Sharif Nahedh's membership in Dua', or for that matter any member of the Royal Family joining any political party? Some explanations say that Sharif Nahedh is not directly related to the Royal Family, and thus his political behaviour has no constitutional bearing on any one. Others say that any member, distant or close, joining a political party is indeed taboo.

* * * * *

GETTING ONLY OLDER, NOT WISER: After serving 13 months as director of the Information and Public Relations Office at the Royal Court, Mohammad Daoudieh resigned his post last month ahead of the Nov. 8 elections in which he intends to stake a claim to a seat in the domed Parliament house. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh, born in Tafleah but brought up in the Ruweisat area (near the border with Iraq), thanked His Majesty King Hussein for the "care and compassion," which be, "an orphan," never dreamed of receiving. A week after his resignation, however, the Council of Ministers approved a licence for a newspaper which will have a heavy involvement of officials from the Royal Court, including its chief Khaled Al Karaki himself, and edited by Mr. Daoudieh. The paper, to be named Al Nahdah, was immediately labelled as the would-be mouthpiece of the regime. But, those who believed that it was were in for a surprise. In the first week after his departure from the Royal Palace, Mr. Daoudieh wrote two scathing pieces in his daily forum (which he has reclaimed) in Al Dustour newspaper against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement and, among other things, accused the PLO of "deceiving" Jordan as well as the people it represents. Did Daoudieh have his own agenda? Or after over a year of working at the Royal Court did not acquire an understanding of the regime's line of thinking? The other, more important question, was how his words would go down in Tafleah, will more Tafleahs vote for him, now that he has lashed out at the PLO?

Suhair Obeidat

Hope is in the land itself

The Palestinians People Of The Olive Tree

By Dr Kamel S. Abu Jaber
Published by the Jordan Institute For Middle East
Studies
Aman-Jordan (1993)

WHAT and what are the Palestinians? These are two of the questions Professor Kamel Abu Jaber attempts to answer in his concise book *The Palestinians-People Of The Olive Tree*.

He does not attempt to catalogue history or trace the Palestinian problem. Facts are forthcoming from the mouths of the Palestinian news vendor Mahmoud, from Sami who lives in the United States, or from Ali, a well-do-do Palestinian who has "made it big" in Australia. In his hundred page dialogue, Dr. Abu Jaber attempts to portray a real-life image of a Palestinian identity with a capacity for feeling and a deep yearning for peace. In doing so he has taken a cross section of Palestinians coming from all walks of life: From the common Mahmoud to the highly educated Jamal, to the story of Umm Jamai and her struggle to support her family.

Women are illustrated through the dialogues of their sons and husbands, but their role is not undermined in the least. They are shown as steadfast beings capable of facing dire hardships and surviving them.

The form these self-portraits take is that of question and answer. The interviewer, being the author, asks several questions of each character and the forthcoming narratives form the core of the book.

After fifteen years of interviewing, Dr. Abu Jaber has conveyed his message: The Palestinians are scattered throughout the world, yet they retain the sacred image of Palestine.

The theme of misery, abuse and intolerance is common to each story. Misery is used like a spice, reviving the human element in the narratives.

The author writes: "We have become attuned to misery," and with this in mind, he attempts to humanise it through the tragedies that befall not statistics but real life families, children, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters.

BOOK REVIEWS

The book is written in such a way that the target reader could be the housewife, the student, the university professor, and decision makers. Using vivid and effective language, the writer shows a country and people constantly assailed by troubles since the beginning of history.

Despite the trauma and the hardships expressed, the author concludes his work with the words "hope remains". Is hope symbolised in the ongoing peace process? In the Palestinians?

Hope, the writer says, is in the land itself which "has given birth to prophets, sooth-sayers and a peaceful people."

Hind-Lara Mango

Local saints and the automation of Algeria

The Ogre's Embrace
By Rachid Mimouni
Quartet, £13.95

A SOLITARY postal worker demonstrates against the state by waving a "Long live the President!" banner. He is accused of being a master spy and sentenced to death. A plan to modernise the railways cuts off a sleepy village from the main line. The village returns to tradition and forgets the rest of the world. A park attendant fights to save his park and turns it into a heaven for young lovers; but then lets it rot again when a prize statue is defaced. Welcome to Rachid Mimouni's Algeria.

The seven stories in *The Ogre's Embrace* focus on the working lives of ordinary Algerians. We are given a privileged glimpse into the daily affairs of station managers, farm labourers, teachers, postmen and political activists. There is little action in the stories — but that is

not the point. The interest lies in the interplay of the character and the intransigent state bureaucracy they encounter at every turn. Mimouni captures the bewilderment of his characters with a mixture of light irony and pathos and an innocent, playful humour.

In *Computers And Me*, for example, a nameless school teacher narrates how automation systematically alienates him from his community, friends and even his children. Conversation dries up when the village tabacconist begins to use a calculator, and our hero is forced to change shops. Computerisation at the state motor factory means that the nonexistence of a spare part can be certified beyond doubt and the car has to be abandoned. When the newly automated village bank makes a mistake and transfers a small fortune into the narrator's account he is forced to flee. When he squanders all his hard currency on electronic games, the narrator "had to change eldest son".

Mimouni's main concern is to show that modernisation has not changed Algeria. It has simply replaced one set of agonies with another. In *The Poilu*, a farm hand gives up his traditional occupation every summer for the modern vocation of being a lifeguard at the beach. The drudgery of labour at the farm is replaced by bureaucratic hurdles and opposition at the seashore. Modernity arrives; the daily grind of life continues.

Not all of Algeria's ills can be laid at the door of the state, however. There are other forces at work here, and Mimouni lovingly brings them to the fore. In a country where, according to legend, gods speak to men, religious tradition yields awesome power. In *A Story Of Time*, the villagers opt for saving the tomb of a local saint and reject the new railway track. Consequently, the village is abandoned by the state and villagers return to a 19th-century existence. In Mimouni's world, traditionalists see everything foreign as detestable and evil. Unmarried men — and they are the protagonists of most of these stories — are seen as abnormal at best and amoral at worst. But those who stand for modernity are not much better. Modern life. Mimouni appears to be saying, is a fantasy that has corrupted those who label themselves as progressive and liberal.

The stories in *The Ogre's Embrace* may be simple, but they carry a poignant message: As a nation, Algeria harbours a tendency towards self-destruction. Perhaps Mimouni overstates his case, even throwing in a few Orientalist clichés for effect. Most of his natives are lazy, all those in authority are far from honest, and everyone seems to be living in "two-room flat with 14 children". But *The Ogre's Embrace* leaves the reader disturbed and, perhaps, as bewildered as some of its characters — *The Independent*.

Ziauddin Sardar

The next step

By Jean-Claude Elias

Since personal computers (PC) were introduced in the early eighties the obvious trend in the Information Technology (IT) industry has been to always propose more powerful, faster, cheaper machines to the user. It has often been said in this very column that a major improvement is introduced to PCs or related equipment (printers, disks, etc...) an average of two times a year.

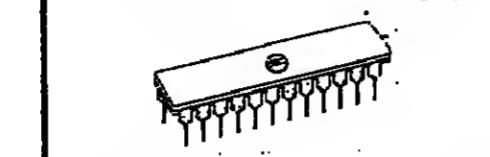
While the general tendency has not changed, recently there seems to be a relative slow down in the users' demand for purchasing equipment or hardware. In six short years, the top-of-the-line PC standard shifted from the 286 processor to the 486-DX2, cruising through the 386-SX, 386-DX, 486-SX, and 486-DX sub-models.

Similarly, most software packages (programmes) have been fine tuned by their developers. The current MS-Windows 3.1 version for instance is far superior in terms of reliability, functionality and user-friendliness to the early one back in 1986. All the key programmes whether word processors, spreadsheets or databases also seem to have become "polished" and one can imagine how difficult it is now for their designers to improve on them.

While there is little doubt that the IT will continue to propose new equipment and improved software, if for marketing reasons only, most private users feel the need to take a "break from buying" and find a way to get the most and the best out of the PC systems they own.

For someone who has been closely following the fashion and therefore replacing his PC and programmes every six months, there has hardly been time enough to study in-depth what he had in his hands. By the time he had acquired some superficial knowledge of his system, it was time to change for a new one. Consequently, with such a pattern, and unless being a full-time computer professional, one could never really explore and become familiar with

chip talk



all the features and possibilities of one's system. Even if previous knowledge could still be used and one didn't have to start again from scratch, a lot of time and effort was generally lost in the process.

Most users now realise the importance of training. Not just shallow, amateur, occasional training but serious, thorough, professional and continuous. It is not surprising to see a growing number of recently established companies in Jordan that specialise in such service. The trend is worldwide and certainly not limited to the Kingdom.

A few years ago, PC operators could live without training or would do with the self-teaching facilities that are built-in, reputable software packages. It is not the case anymore. Users cannot expect to become proficient without formal, organised, systematic computer courses, given by specialists.

Several leading PCs manufacturers are going through a negative phase, sustaining heavy losses. The long awaited 386 processor — or Pentium as it is officially called — has been designed, tested and released but doesn't seem to be easily available, commercially speaking. The best one can do in times like these is to find ways, through courses or personal practice, to better know the software and the equipment one already has.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

DO YOU KNOW?

* Adding some drops of ammonia to boiling water with melted soap would make jewels and diamonds glitter after having them immersed in this solution.

* * * * *

* Temperature in the South Pole has reached -80.3 degrees centigrade. In case you place a cup of water at such a degree, water evaporates in the form of drizzles of minute snowy crystals.

* * * * *

* A couple of mice may yield 350,000,000 within three years if the reproduction continues during that period.

* * * * *

* The famous Venetian painter, Tintoretto (Little Dyer), made the largest painting in the world when he was still 74.

* * * * *

* Scientists estimate that each cubic mile of oceanic water contains 190 tonnes of iodine.

* * * * *

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Familiar expressions

— Drive this nail in. Dok hazal mismar.
— Give everybody his dues. Aati koll thee haq haqqan.
— Strike the iron when it is hot. Idrob Al Hadeed wa howa sakhiin.

— Walk at your ease. Imshi afa mahlik.
— Lend me your ears. A'irni intibahak.
— Speak frankly, please. Takallam bisara, min fadlik.
— Sit on the other end of the table. Ijless alal ma'ida minjal jihatil okhura.

PERPLEXITIES

PLUS FOURS

Below are clues to fourteen four-letter words to be inserted in the open squares in the diagram. When the correct words are discovered, it will be found that each of them may be made into another word by the insertion of a single letter in the centre. These additional letters, which may be placed in the shaded square, form the name of a personality familiar to the readers of JORDAN TIMES.

1. Layer or row
2. Small, thin nail
3. Close
4. To confront
5. A kind of plant

6. Mast

7. Utiliser or employer

8. To twist into thread

9. Measures of weight

10. Price paid

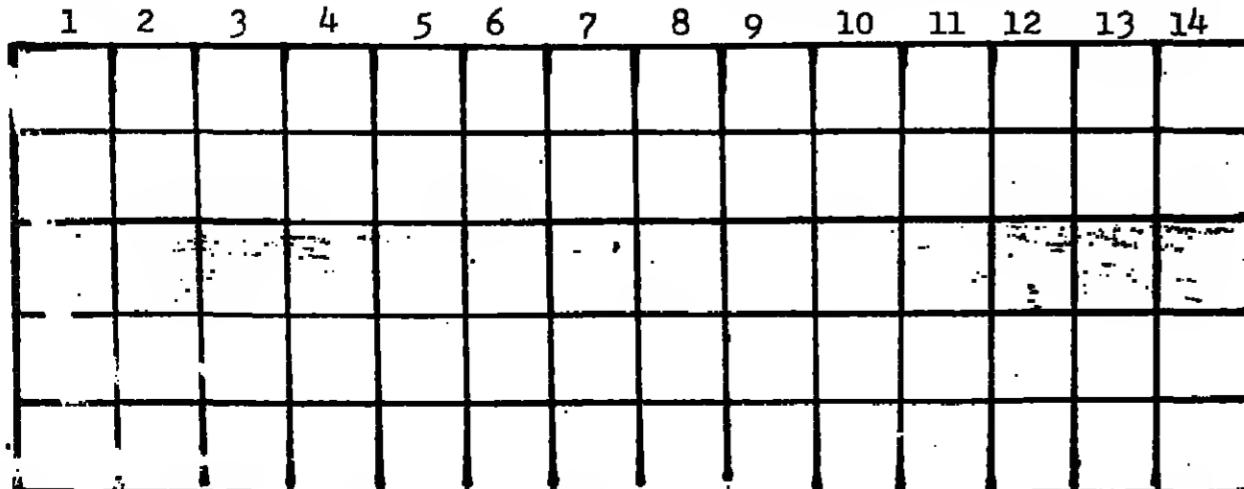
11. Loud ringing of bells

12. A horse

13. Pretty

14. Playing-cards having one spot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



Nobody loves you like I do

By E. Yaghi

All true trophies of the ages
are from mother-love im-
peared;
For the hand that rocks the
cradle
Is the hand that rules the
world.

By William Ross Wallace

"Are you jealous because your son loves me?" Grenella questioned her mother-in-law as they both sat in the kitchen drinking soda on a hot summer day.

"You are quite mistaken if you believe such a thing answered Beowulf's mother. "It would please me more than you could ever know if you love my son more than I do."

Beowulf's mother knew that any defence of herself would certainly be accepted suspiciously by her son's wife. It had been one long tedious, tiring and troublesome month since her son left his wife and two small children with his parents while he travelled back to the country where he had obtained his Master's Degree in order to pack up all his belongings to take that final step and assume the position of a job offer here in Jordan. Every day Beowulf's mother had to try to cope with his two small children and their mother and every morning at breakfast his wife would gurgle and coo over her husband's photo and say to her children: "See daddy's picture! Do you love him? Give daddy a big kiss!" And every day she had to also listen to the sticky expressions of her saying: "Oh, I miss Beowulf so much! Oh, I love him so much. Only so many more days until he comes."

Thus, the children would slobber over their father's wrinkled frayed picture while Beowulf's mother who worked under the alias of "Grandma" watched as a queasy feeling inched its way up her throat.

No, she didn't believe in being jealous of her son's wife even though her son phoned nearly every day and impatiently asked to speak to his beloved who commenced to report a list of events of the past twenty-four hours since they had last spoken together. It was as if Grenella imagined herself to be some sort of Cinderella, not the troll-wife that she was. Most often she left the dishes after meals for her mother-in-law to wash and too, the responsibility for cooking mainly fell on Grandma's shoulders. Not to mention the cleaning of black fingerprints from off the walls and scrubbing spots off the carpets that her son's children made, or how she became the convenient built-in babysitter as if she herself had not raised her own children but had been born and bred to care without a moment's notice, her howling grandchildren with the assumption that she had nothing else to do with her life.

However being a grandmother takes some getting used to and isn't something that automatically and instantly infiltrates a granny's being. Beowulf's mother found the first half hour of every day to be the most difficult. She had grown too used to those days of quiet lazy mornings when her own children rushed off to school leaving her in the solitude of heavenly peace and screamless, cryless hours. But one day after such a question of, "do you get jealous because your son loves me?" business, Beowulf's mother finally replied with a bit of rage brewing under her graying scalp: "You know something? Marriage is an institution of daily sacrifice. It is a give and take partnership where each

spouse tries to contribute some of his or her self for the sake of the children and the benefit of the entire family. Love isn't just saying, 'I love you.' Love isn't selfish either. You, Grenella, want to go to a private university and spend JD 3,000 a year on tuition. How much is your husband going to make at his new job?"

Grenella looked surprised at the sudden unexpected outburst of Beowulf's mother. "I don't know," she replied.

"Naturally, you didn't give him a second thought, but I will tell you how much. He will be making JD 4,000 a year and you will spend 3,000 on yourself for tuition alone. That will leave JD 1,000 for the pur of you to live on. From this amount you will have to pay a babysitter for your children, food, rent, transportation and so on. I believe that what you plan to do is pure selfishness not love, in fact, such an endeavour seems more like insanity than practicality."

"Even if your husband, who just so happened to be my son first, foolishly allows you to attend such a university to get your education, you should refuse! What would happen if you stayed home for a year or two until your husband is settled in his job and has a little money saved up? It wouldn't be the end of the world, and your little children need you more than anything else. How do you plan to put them in some nursery school or throw them on some neglectful sister who doesn't care if they eat or not? You Grenella; are sacrificing your children and your husband for your own selfish interests. I am not against your getting an education, but your children and your husband should come first. The mother is like a school to her young. Are you planning to send Beowulf to his grave before he reaches the age of thirty? If you really love him as much as you say you do, then you will sacrifice something of yourself so that the future of all of you will be stabilised."

"But I do love him!" her daughter-in-law protested.

"If you really love him as much as you claim, you will settle down, make a home for him, take care of his children and make ends meet until your fortune takes a turn. If I had a dinar, I would give all of it to my son if he needed it, but if my son had a dinar, you would spend it on yourself and take another dinar in debt to get what you want. I do not call this love, I call this using and taking advantage of the goodness of the one who loves you. Be beware, one day this love if constantly abused and misused, might turn to hate and then you won't be the queen that you fancy yourself to be! What's more, one thing I do like to hear is that everybody in Jordan is ignorant and what a good life you had in the country you used to live in. Every country has its advantages and disadvantages, but this is your home, this is the country where you were born and raised. If you do feel the people are ignorant, then work to educate them. The best place to start is with your own children for they are the potential leaders of tomorrow. And never use your education to become a snob over others. Once you get a degree, it is for yourself. As for your son, look at him! How much do you love him? I don't think that you care or love him more than I love Beowulf. Nobody loves him like I do, for long before he ever married you, he was a part of me."

In a few days Beowulf will return to his "loving" wife and children. Grenella will be full of complaints of course but Granny must suffer in silence and hope and pray that the one tiny brain being shared by her son and his wife will multiply into two and that true love will prevail which both partners, not just one, learn to give of themselves for the sake of the whole family and then Granny, nice the apple of Beowulf's eyes will return to her den beneath the murky foaming waters of the boiling pond of unquited love.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 16

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

The Return Of Rafkin

An old lady tells Rafkin that she can call the spirit of her brother.

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Undue Force

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Blindsight

Starring: Jeff Fahey and Mia Sara

Frank and Lee are two policemen who try to arrest a big gang and while doing his job Frank loses his eyesight and becomes blind.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Overruled

Starring: John Getz and John Robenstein

Saturday, Sept. 18

8:30 It's A Wacky World

Grazy contests in singing and hairdos as well as very dangerous hobbies.

9:30 Varieties — A concert recorded live from Albert Hall, London, for Marc Almond.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Other Shoe

Starring: Fred Astaire and Lyd Charrisse

Tony Hunter, a singer, goes to New York to regain his fame which he almost lost in Hollywood.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Le Gerfaut

Le Gerfaut finds his wife, who is in love with the ambassador of Sicily. He kills the ambassador and gets into big trouble which costs him his American nationality.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — The Outsider

10:00 News In English

10:20 Ashenden

Mr. Harrington Washington

Ashenden goes to Russia to deliver money to the government that is toppled by the Bolsheviks while Ashenden is there.

9:10 Documentary

9:30 The Torkisons

Dorothy is shocked to see the police closing up the shop which sells home made jam, vegetables and fruits.

10:00 News In English

10:20 This Week

This Week

10:00 News In English

10:20 People Next Door

Make Room For Abby

Walter is a very helpful husband. He cleans the house, cooks and does everything which unfortunately makes

Hunger

IT'S ON an empty stomach that Sarajevo commemorated the arrival of the first humanitarian aid convoy. Hunger is spreading like the plague, from one family another, from the old to the young.

Last year, the world sent flour and lunch packs to Sarajevo to allow us to survive until a military or political solution could be found. But the world is now showing us a different face, one of cynical disdain for the hundreds of thousands of people left here who have nothing to eat, and who have not even the spiritual sustenance of hope which would at least reinforce us spiritually at a time when we are physically weakened.

The last year has been punctuated by the alternate arrivals and suspensions of humanitarian aid. Those who initiated this aid, and those who brought it to us, were fair game for criticism. Aid arrived irregularly. Any local desperado could stop it or steal it at some time between its departure and its arrival. All aid was liable to being turned away from its rightful recipients. We are never told the initial volume of aid convoys, and therefore can never know just how much was stolen on the way.

The amount of food distributed in Sarajevo in 1993 has fallen somewhere between rations handed out in concentration camps and the minimum suggested daily food intake. The warning light went on at a time when there was already no more petrol.

The only unquestionable effect brought about by humanitarian aid is, on the one hand, the humiliation of being forced to accept handouts, and on the other hand, the numbing effect of these handouts. But the depression caused by hunger is even more flagrant.

The handouts are no longer arriving. Perhaps none will ever arrive again. Responses such as the hunger strike staged by municipal officers are worth their weight in results. In the beginning, they attest to the Bosnian presidency's renewed moderation after the episode when humanitarian aid was refused as a mark of solidarity with Eastern Bosnia. Then the hunger strike, at least during its first bestial days, gave to Sarajevo that indispensable touch of humour which allowed us to live through the following months.

Lowest mortals can say: "Don't start reading this book. It's too thick. You'll never get through it". But spiritual sustenance, be it nothing more than high-calory black humour, will never replace flour, sugar and cooking oil. We cannot come out of this crisis still playing on our naivety. Of course, it's unjust. But we still need to know what door to knock on in order to find something to eat.

Hamza Baksic

June 2 1993

OSLOBODENJE

Independent Bosnian-Herzegovinian daily newspaper

Editorial Staff: Director General: Salko Hasanevic. Editor-in-chief: Kemal Kurspahic

IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO

They are all our children

In solidarity with Oslobodenje



IN SEPTEMBER 1992, while war was raging throughout Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia, a group of determined resisters formed Oslobodenje (Liberation). A communist newspaper under Tito, subsequently independent, Oslobodenje is now seen as the standard bearer of the Bosnian press. Even today it is published by Croats, Muslims and Serbs working together.

But it will doubtless be under fire and in any case in a country ravaged by war that Oslobodenje will celebrate, on Sept. 16, 1993, the 50th anniversary of its founding. To mark this anniversary, 82 newspapers will unite their efforts in order to show their solidarity and to pay homage to this newspaper which has become a symbol of resistance in Sarajevo. On the same day, the newspapers participating in the project will publish special sections devoted to Oslobodenje, made up of articles already published in that newspaper, chosen and assembled by Reporters sans Frontières.

Also to mark the occasion, an official ceremony will be held today in the offices of the newspaper, 185, Dzennala Bijedic Street. At 11 o'clock there will be a press conference in the basement of the building. At noon, following the official ceremony which will be attended by fellow journalists from throughout the world, there will be a lunch given by the editorial staff. At five o'clock, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, the management of the newspaper will present their projects for reconstruction.

In addition to the Jordan Times the participating newspapers are:

Daily Yomiuri (Japan).
Delo (Slovenia).
Demokratia (Bulgaria).
Der Standard (Austria).
El Espectador (Colombia).
El Diario de Caracas (Venezuela).
El Watan (Algeria).
Feral Tribune (Croatia).
Francia Press (Italy).
Globe Hebdo.
La Croix.
La Montagne.
La Nouvelle République du Centre-Ouest.
Le Véto de Nord.
Le Bien Public.
Le Courier Picard.
L'Événement du Jeudi.
Le Parisien.
Le Progrès.
Le Provencal.
Le Républicain Lorrain.
Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace.
Midi Libre.
Ouest-France.
Sad Ouest.
Praesurif Rundschau (Germany).
Gazeta Wyborcza (Poland).
Haaretz (Israel).
Helsingin Sanomat (Finland).
Het Parool (Netherlands).
Il Giornale (Italy).
Il Piccolo (Italy).
Jornal do Brasil (Brazil).
Kinyamateka (Rwanda).
La Libre Belgique (Belgium).
La Nación (Chile).
La Prensa (Quebec).
La Presse (Quebec).
La Presse (Tunisia).
L'Archipel (Comoros).
La Repubblica (Italy).
La Semaine Africaine (Congo).
La Tribune de Genève (Switzerland).
La Mekong (Cambodia).
Le Messager (Cameroon).
Lidové Noviny (Czech Republic).
L'Observateur (Malta).
L'Opinion (Monaco).
L'Orient-Le Joum (Lebanon).
Madagascar Tribune (Madagascar).
Magyar Márca (Hungary).
Milliyet & Milliyet International (Turkey).
Morocco (Morocco).
Nigerien Hebdo (Chad).
Publico (Portugal).
Republika (Bosnia).
Republika (Macedonia).
Riljanica (Kosovo).
Sme (Republic of Slovakia).
Sonntags-Zeitung (Switzerland).
Sud Quotidien (Senegal).
Tagesschau (Germany).
The Irish Times (Ireland).
The Namibian (Namibia).
The Nation (Kenya).
The Guardian (The United Kingdom).
The Weekly Mail (South Africa).
Times of India (India).
To Vima (Greece).
Ving-Doux (Romania).
Vreme (Serbia).
Weekendavisen (Denmark).
Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan).
Zeri Rümü (Albania).
Za Rubezom (Russia).

Oslobodenje is 50

SINCE THE beginning of the war, the whole world has been watching Oslobodenje. And today, when we celebrate our 50th birthday, the international community of journalists will be present with us. Just as when this newspaper was founded 50 years ago by resistance fighters in the Bosnian mountains, the occasion will be marked by extraordinary conditions. Fifty years after the war of liberation against the occupying Nazis, Oslobodenje is once again at the heart of the struggle for freedom of the peoples of Bosnia.

The Oslobodenje offices, once the pride of Sarajevo's new architecture, are now little more than a heap of ruins and ash. However, despite never-ending electricity and water cuts, deprived of fax and telephone, unable to obtain agency dispatches and essential equipment, we still get the newspaper out every night, if necessary by candle light. And every morning, the inhabitants of Sarajevo can buy their newspaper in the street.

Despite the material and human losses we have suffered — five journalists killed, more than 12 missing without trace and about thirty wounded — the free spirit of our paper is stronger than ever. The staff of Oslobodenje are the exact image — not only ethically, but culturally — of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Among us, Croats, Muslims and Serbs who are all Bosnian citizens, continue to work together as they did before the war. They fight each day to bring out the paper which has become the symbol of Sarajevo's resistance. The entire population of our besieged city identifies with Oslobodenje.

More than ever, in addition to our professional competence, we have the "spirit of Oslobodenje" giving its special force of conviction to everything we write. Indeed, our paper has been awarded some of the most important international prizes for journalists, in Spain, the United States, France, Britain, Scandinavia.

If our paper has managed to survive despite the atrocious conditions brought by the war, it is also thanks to the solidarity of journalists throughout the world. When we run out of paper, lost all lines of communication, when food has been getting short, journalists from Europe and the entire world have rallied round to help us. For all those working on Oslobodenje, this material support has been crucial.

But even more precious is the moral support we have received. During the worst days of the siege, under the most lethal bombardments, knowing that we were not alone, and that we were still a part of the great family of journalists, has helped strengthen our will to survive.

Moreover, we are certain that thanks to this international solidarity, we will be able to rebuild our offices as soon as our city has been liberated... The new building will be a monument to the glory of the newspaper which refused to die and which proved, by publishing every day throughout the war, that guns, cannons and tanks are not enough to stifle the freedom of speech. This freedom we have preserved will make up the most painful, but also the most precious page, in the 50-year history of Oslobodenje.

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor-in-Chief

DONATIONS

You can support Oslobodenje and take part in the reconstruction of the newspaper by sending your donation to:

Oslobodenje c/o Reporters Sans Frontières
17, rue de l'Abbé de l'Epée
34000 Montpellier — France



Victims of a vicious civil war (Photo by Patrick Robert/SYGMA)

"Her father will lose his mind when he hears of this", he said. "She's not your daughter?" I asked.

"No, but she was my favourite child in the whole block".

"You kept saying: My child is

dying!"

"She really was my favourite. Aren't all these children our children?"

I learned later that the man's name was Mirsad Kreco.

We went back to the old para-

ground, in the burning heat.

The nightmare continued.

There was blood all around us. A thick layer of blood had congealed over the back seat of my car. There was blood everywhere: in the boot, under our feet, on the doors of the car. At the place where we had helped the wounded into the car, there were still large pools of blood on the ground. That evening a heavy

shower fell and washed them away.

I gathered up the newspapers to take them back into town. I gave them to Stanko Steiner, the hawk.

The next day, he said: "I didn't sell anything. No one wanted to buy newspapers

stained with blood".

Two or three days later, in the same part of town, a missile fired from Serb positions killed a two-year-old girl. The next day, in front of another building, Dragan Balaton, 18 years old, was killed.

He wanted to cross the path that separated the two buildings, a distance of about 30 metres. The missile fell just in front of him. A bouquet of flowers has been placed on the spot.

The casualties from the build-

ing at number three are slowly

getting better. Stefie didn't need

to be hospitalised, she was able to return home straightaway. The doctors were able to save Slav-

isa's arm and Samir's leg. Sanelia,

who was Mirsad Kreco's favourite, died. The light which

flickered and went out in her eyes, the streams of blood which

flowed from her carrying her life with them, the little hand which

tried to fend off the shadow of death, which came to rest in her hair, these fragments make up the last image which I keep of her. Because of this image, I seem to have definitely lost hope that this war may be over soon. It will go on for a long time yet, until all the witnesses of the massacre on that torrid August day have disappeared in their turn. But the worst of it is not the murder of our bodies, but the murder of our souls. And that is why this war is truly interminable...

Vlado Mrkic

Aug. 12, 1993

OSLOBODENJE AND SARAJEVO

More than just a newspaper

RECENTLY, IN one of the many

texts that have been published about Oslobodenje in the international press, I read the following statement: "A small Sarajevo newspaper, which yesterday no one had heard of and which could have been considered almost insignificant in the context of world journalism, has today become the symbol of the struggle for freedom of information and for the freedom of the press in general..."

In Sarajevo itself, at a moment when the recent evolution of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina could hardly have been foreseen, one of the most prominent representatives of the HCR, Larry Longenhove, had observed that, for the besieged city, Oslobodenje was "much more than just a newspaper". The truth of this remark can no longer be contested, and is now recognised as well by those who don't like Oslobodenje, as by its faithful readers.

Today it is difficult to predict the future of this newspaper and of the journalists who continue to produce it with enthusiasm, working out of a ruined building. However, it is clear that henceforward the name of Oslobodenje will remain inscribed in the history of journalism as an honourable and instructive example of what is possible even in such

conditions.

There are three essential

reasons for which Oslobodenje

has played an invaluable role in

the lives of the inhabitants of

the city of Sarajevo under siege.

Above all, the newspaper has

fulfilled its principal function,

that of informing the Sarajevs

— along with those outside the

city whom the paper has been

able to reach — of what is hap-

pening in Sarajevo and in Bosnia-

Herzegovina, in ex-Yugoslavia

and in the entire world. Deprived

of electricity, and of radio and

television also, Oslobodenje is

often the only source of news

available to the people of the

city.

The existence of Oslobodenje is the irrefutable demonstration that in Sarajevo, life is stronger than death

The news it prints is all the more

important because, in spite of the

surrounding folly, the newspaper

has managed to preserve its inde-

pendence and its freedom of ac-

tion. In this way, the news has been

protected from the violence which

others might have done to it.

The second reason why Oslobodenje is unique is the way in

which it is produced: in almost

impossible conditions, fifty

metres from the front line, in a

charred and ruined building

(left), constantly attacked and

bombed, Oslobodenje's jour-

nalists have become a symbol of

resistance (Photo by Senad Gubelic / Oslobodenje)



support of European leaders. The fact that a common life is possible, even in the worst conditions — as at Oslobodenje during the war — has perhaps contributed to the popularity of the newspaper among the ordinary people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the

same time, it has earned the hatred of the chauvinists and the fascists who want to carve the country up, and who claim that this common life is nothing but idle nostalgia or pure hypothesis. These reasons for which Oslobodenje is today far more than a newspaper, are also the reasons for which the butchers of Bosnia-Herzegovina are so keen to see it disappear. Unfortunately, these daily attacks on the newspaper which continue to deprive it of the bare minimum which it requires to continue its work, have been supported by political manoeuvring outside ex-Yugoslavia, and particularly at the United Nations. The decision, taken some time ago, that the paper and videocassettes which the Sarajevo media need do not "deserve" to be given space in the humanitarian aid convoys, has not been reversed, despite the considerable pressure brought to bear by many international, humanitarian and professional organisations. It seems that Oslobodenje is to pay the price of unmasking the incredible international hypocrisy that surrounds the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Unfortunately, things will not change now. The inhabitants of the city know this, they who have already lost everything except their dignity. That is why Oslobodenje will remain their newspaper, however many pages it may have, whatever its format or the colour of the paper

Some progress made on 'crib death' research

By Paula Sands

NEW HAVEN, USA — Every baby born is at some risk of dying of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome, also called crib death) simply because we have not yet determined what causes what has become a parent's nightmare, says Dr. Gabriel G. Haddad, professor of pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine. Nevertheless, Dr. Haddad is optimistic that continuing research in various countries will uncover the root causes of the problem.

As its name indicates, SIDS is the sudden, apparently unexplainable death of infants, particularly in the first few months of life. "The peak incidence is usually at two to three months of age," Dr. Haddad explained.

"It's usually unexpected because the infants look normal to their pediatricians and to their parents. It is not necessarily true that they are OK. Obviously, they are dying."

Dr. Haddad, 46, says scientists have discovered more about these infants and about the fact that they may have experienced some form of stress. "It is possible that their deaths could be linked to a chronic type of stress." For example, he says that there's a high incidence of

babies who die of SIDS in pregnancies subjected to maternal cigarette smoke.

"Opinions vary," Dr. Haddad said, "but some of the abnormalities that we see — some of the differences between these babies and normal babies — could be attributed to abnormalities when they were fetuses. Potentially, insufficient blood flow to the fetus during pregnancy could be part of the problem." Malnutrition is another stress on the system that could play a role.

At this stage, Dr. Haddad says, there is not enough evidence to suggest that SIDS is genetic or has genetic roots, or is caused by chromosomal problems, although he doesn't rule it out.

The genetic evidence is not there, but there is some family tendency. There are some family predilections. One can see increased incidence in some families, and not in others. If a sibling has had SIDS, there is an increased chance that the next infant may have SIDS."

A number of autopsy studies of brain stems have been done. "It's difficult to study this in detail in humans," Dr. Haddad explained. But "autopsies have indicated that there are some abnormalities."

The problem with these infants, Dr. Haddad says, is that questions remain. "First, we do not know whether this is a primary or a secondary type of problem. We do not know whether this type of abnormality leads to the demise, or whether it is a consequence of the stress, a hypodermic that has nothing to do with the demise. Second, we do not know whether it is a consequence of low oxygen that could have existed in the brains of these infants as a consequence of upper airway obstruction or central apnea (when babies temporarily stop breathing), or something else."

At this stage, the functional significance of the pathology seen in the brain stems of young victims is unknown. "What does it prove?" Dr. Haddad asked. "Is it really related to the pathology and to the reason for death — or is it a byproduct, a reflection of an overall type of pathology not only of the brain but of other things as well?"

The total number of infants afflicted by SIDS in the U.S. is about 7,000-10,000, but the rate at which infants die of SIDS is not the same for all ethnic groups. For example, Oriental infants or infants of parents of Oriental descent in the U.S. have a very low incidence of SIDS. Afro-

American and Hispanic infants have a much higher incidence of SIDS.

"In Europe — in countries like Sweden and other Scandinavian countries — the incidence is a little lower than in the U.S. but still substantial," Dr. Haddad said. "If you look at the death of infants in the past 20 years, the rate in general has decreased. When you extract SIDS data, the SIDS figures are either the same for the past 20 years or have even increased in the past few years."

The issue of SIDS is difficult to assess for Third World countries because of a lack of statistics.

"There are so many other reasons for infant mortality in these countries," Dr. Haddad said. "SIDS is really masked. One could always see other types of pathology in the babies who die."

Dr. Haddad and his Yale colleagues have worked closely with physicians in England for the last six years.

"(In England) they did a study on about 10,000 infants.

A number of these infants subsequently died of SIDS and we have obtained some of their data," Dr. Haddad said. Now scientists are comparing the data to determine if there were differences between the infants that died and those that survived.

"We have also exchanged ideas with physicians in Sweden."

"At this stage," Dr. Haddad said, "I think that the risk factors are related to prenatal care and to what happens in the first two or three months. Any baby who is born smaller for gestational age than normal, from a growth perspective, is at higher risk. Babies that seemingly are subject to upper respiratory infection seem to be at higher risk. Maternal smoking seems to increase the incidence, although alcohol use does not."

"There's quite a bit of debate going on," Dr. Haddad said.

Experts now say that putting a baby to sleep on its back, rather than its stomach, may help prevent crib death.

than its stomach, may help prevent crib death



Dr. Gabriel G. Haddad

cussed the problem with Lebanese colleagues. "The statistics are not there. In Israel, the incidence is commensurate with that of Europe — and there are statistics there. I don't think we have many statistics for Jordan, Egypt, Syria, North Africa or India."

Clinical research on infants, as well as basic research on animal models, is going on in the U.S. and abroad. "Some progress has been made. Funding is being maintained at a high level. Progress should be made," Dr. Haddad noted. But for now nobody knows whether crib death will turn out to be one disease or a generic term covering many different problems — World News Link.

Furthermore, Dr. Haddad says, doctors are not sure what to monitor — heart rate, respiratory rate — or how to monitor. In addition, some monitors can give false or misleading information.

"Should we monitor other things that would be more important than heart rate or respiratory rate?" Dr. Haddad asked. "Should we monitor the oxygen level in the blood? Would that give us different information or more important information?" A study in progress, sponsored by the National Institute of Health, is looking at these questions and monitoring a large number of infants.

"What is frightening," Dr. Haddad, who has three children of his own, added, "is that every newborn seems to

be at some risk." Some infants who died seemed healthy, seemed not to have suffered from anything before birth, and seemed to have been OK in the first few months of life.

Nor can Dr. Haddad explain why the rate of SIDS is higher among Afro-Americans and Hispanics.

"We do not know whether it is related to poor or irregular prenatal care. It is possible that it is partly related to socioeconomic status, education and reliance on medical advice."

Statistics are unavailable for people of Arabic backgrounds. Dr. Haddad, who was born in Lebanon and who attended the American University of Beirut, has dis-

Controversial AIDS vaccine trial now set for 1994

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An AIDS vaccine trial that has been opposed by federal health officials despite a special \$20 million appropriation will start next year under the direction of the army, a drug company announced.

Microgenetics Inc., a Connecticut company that paid a lobbyist to persuade Congress to appropriate money for the large-scale drug test,

said trials of its Vaxsyn AIDS vaccine will start early next year.

Vaxsyn is the Microgenetics form of an engineered protein called GP160 that mimics the protein that covers the surface of the AIDS virus. In small, early trials, the vaccine was found to stimulate some responses in the human immune system.

But

scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had earlier rejected proposals that the federal government finance a full-scale trial of Vaxsyn. NIH experts said they believe the vaccine did not show enough promise to justify the expense of a large trial.

Officials of Microgenetics

bypassed the NIH approval process last year by hiring former Sen. Russell Long to lobby in Congress for funding of a Vaxsyn trial. Last October, a \$20 million special appropriation calling for a

drug trial was slipped into the \$10 billion Department of Defense appropriation.

The bill called for the army to conduct the vaccine trial unless there were technical objections from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

After a series of meetings, federal health officials concluded that GP160 did not merit a drug trial, when measured by classical scientific standards, but they decided that there was some scientific value in testing the drug against candidate vaccines made by other companies.

Children still face brain damage because of lead — report

SYDNEY (AFP) — Two hundred thousand Australian children face the risk of brain damage because of a "completely preventable" problem, lead in petrol, a medical study has warned.

The report by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) follows a bitter backlash against the Australian government over budget measures announced last month to increase the tax on leaded petrol in an effort to reduce its use.

Substantially endorsing the government move, the study

warned there was an urgent need to reduce lead levels in petrol and tighten air pollution standards.

But it said one in six children — 200,000 — would still be left with too much lead in their blood despite plans by government and industry to cut the lead content in petrol to 0.2 grammes a litre by 1995.

At its June meeting, the NHMRC recommended a limit of no more than 10 microgrammes of lead per decilitre of blood, but did not

set a date for reaching that target.

About 44 per cent of Australian children had blood lead levels above the goal, the report said.

Between one and three IQ points are thought to be lost for each 10 microgrammes of lead in a decilitre of a child's blood.

Petrol produces 90 per cent of atmospheric lead and lead in petrol should be cut immediately to 0.15 grammes a litre, the report recommended, but said the govern-

ment should examine whether to cut lead levels to the U.S. level of 0.026 grammes per litre.

It also recommended that two cents per litre of petrol excise be set aside for lead reduction programmes.

The government had

budgeted for a five cents a litre differential excise for leaded petrol, but reduced it to two cents after protests by its own backbench that its impact fell too heavily on the lower paid who drive the oldest cars.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FOR KIDS AND OTHERS
By Rena M. Campbell

ACROSS
1 Grid work of a baker
2 Kind of bullet
3 Wood used for
4 Gold
10 Take — to (get to
11 Land
13 Expansion
20 Love and Rytm
22 Diabolos
23 Start of a nursery
— rhyme
25 Homeless New
Year
26 Ladder rungs
28 Lamp
29 Spicy
30 Foot compass
32 Beware the —
33 Hindu queen
35 Only-day

DOWN
1 Lasagne
2 Vase
3 Goldicks upset
4 Counter
5 Termites
6 Temporary
7 Proctores
8 Football team
9 Ursus
10 Orange
11 Before
12 Horoscope
13 Lamp
14 Cut of the
Cebes
15 Lemurian
16 Mirthful
17 Copycat
18 Modernize
21 Climbing plant
22 Made angry
23 Stupors

Diagramless 17 x 17, By Don Johnson
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3 Kind of bullet
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10 Take — to (get to
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13 Expansion
20 Love and Rytm
22 Diabolos
23 Start of a nursery
— rhyme
25 Homeless New
Year
26 Ladder rungs
28 Lamp
29 Spicy
30 Foot compass
32 Beware the —
33 Hindu queen
35 Only-day

DOWN
1 Ingots
2 Small entrance
3 Shakespeare's king
4 Regional
5 Not to be
6 Sacrifices
7 Played for time
8 Aptid
9 Went to inspect
10 Sports at Rat and
12 Counselor

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e.g.
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40 Hesitate
41 Sea eagle
42 Seal of quality
43 Banquette
44 Acquiesce
45 Capacity of a
selected abbr.
46 Peaf or Edwin
47 Martified
48 Indicate
49 Habituates: Ver.
50 "Green the
impossible!" —
(Browning)
51 French museum
52 "Night and day,
dah"
53 Disparities or
Lacuna
54 Overact

55 Whimsy
57 Poem
58 Take in one's
stride
59 Part of the
world
60 More expensive
61 Drowsy
62 Amorphous
63 Movie from a
comic strip
64 Street group
65 Chaperone
66 Represented by a
lawyer
67 Collect or leg
68 Silver Lat.
71 Pinch into
72 Choice or tasty
dish
73 Enter
75 Bulging cheer

76 Whisk
77 Lyricist pieces
78 Hopalong or
Butch
79 Chintz's tube
80 Translated
82 O —, Tex.
83 Below
84 Glittering gate
85 Child's book
86 Shock
87 Quirks
88 Swine
89 Villain of fairy
tales
91 Yellow
92 Take in one's
stride
93 Letterman and
Garneray
94 Hamster
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96 Sister
97 Stovepipe
98 Pigeon
99 Grace
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Jordan and the economics of the autonomy deal

(Continued from page 1)

approval from Jordan to export set quantities at set dates of entry, and tight regulations were justified by Jordan on the basis they meant to prevent infiltration of Israeli goods.

A Palestinian economist living in the occupied territories said while the trade balance had always been in favour of the West Bank, Jordan benefited from services rendered to Palestinians from the occupied territories around the year, and these amount to over \$200 million. They include crossing activity through the bridges, medical treatment in Jordanian hospitals, fees for renewing Jordanian passports, staying in hotels when using Jordan as a transit, university fees of Palestinian students, deposits of West Bank residents in Jordanian banks; and Arab and International aid, private or official, used to sit in Jordanian banks before they were transferred to the occupied territories, and at times it would be deposited in hard currency and delivered to Palestinians in the Jordanian dinar. He said Palestinian deposits in one bank alone, Cairo Amman Bank, were \$80 million and the bank's branch in the occupied territories does not invest this money in the occupied territories; instead, they are deposited in the Central Bank of Jordan in the form of treasury bonds.

Some officials were deeply perturbed by the possibility that Israel and the Palestinians would form an economic confederation or an economic union, which would leave Jordan's economy vulnerable and its ability to influence marginalised.

"The formation of Israeli-Palestinian committees in all fields gives the impression of the formation of a union between Jordan and the Palestinians, which would leave Jordan's economy vulnerable and its ability to influence marginalised."

Some officials and businessmen say the protection of Jordanian economic interests would be total separation between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, and Jordanians of Palestinian origin would have to choose between remaining in Jordan or leaving to the occupied territories.

But opponents of this idea say compelling Palestinians to choose would have a detrimental impact on Jordan's economy since Palestinians, who make up almost half of the 3.9 million population are skilled labourers and successful businessmen. Separation would force capital flight, and

the fears of Palestinian cash outflow would then become a reality.

Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar said that capital flight would be detrimental to Jordan's economy because a large percentage of business in Jordan are owned by Palestinians. Other officials speculated some capital flight which could affect the Jordanian economy, but they expect only 10 per cent of Palestinians living in Jordan to actually leave for the occupied territories.

Echoing socio-economic concerns of many bankers and businessmen, Mr. Bilbisi queried whether the huge deposits in Jordanian banks of Palestinians residing inside the occupied territories would now be moved to Palestinian banks that would be set up in the Palestinian self-rule area, and how many Palestinian businessmen would now invest there instead of Jordan. Would Palestinian labourers move to Jordan for employment if improvement in living conditions took a slow pace inside the occupied territories?

"I think Jordanian concerns about the PLO-Israeli agreement are economic related rather than political," said a Jordanian businessman. "For over two decades, Jordan's economy has grown with the help of the Palestinian population here, and they have participated in building and improving the economy, despite the successive massive inflow of refugees and displaced persons and returnees, which exhausted our infrastructure and services."

He said Jordanian economists were wary of the fact that if Palestinian businessmen now decided to invest somewhere else or move their money to build the Palestinian economy, in the absence of Arab aid, Jordan's economy would suffer. Furthermore, Jordan's previous role in safeguarding Palestinian interests and hosting the largest number of Palestinians and acting as their custodian, would now be diminished because Arab and international aid allocated to Palestinians channeled through Jordan would now go directly to Palestinians.

PLO economists confirmed that the PLO will focus on attracting Palestinian diaspora businessmen and their expertise in building the occupied territories' infrastructure. The PLO's seven-year development programme, a two-stage economic rehabilitation plan, envisages attracting investment by wealthy successful Palestinians living in the diaspora. A Palestinian economist said the PLO intends to make use of their successful experiences in the two Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and in the Gulf in order to build a strong and free Palestinian economy.

Renowned Palestinian eco-

nomist Jawad Al Naji said: "We are seeking a large role for Palestinian capital in financing the Palestinian development process."

Mr. Naji said in the building process of the Palestinian economy, the PLO will encourage a larger role for the private sector, and the less government interference the better the economy. "We want to encourage the concept of the free market and modern economy," he said.

He said the Israeli occupation imposed an imbalanced relationship between the Israeli and Palestinian economies, one of total dependency of the latter on the former.

"One of the most pressing priorities of the Palestinian self-rule authority would be to disengage the two economies and start building a healthy and strong Palestinian independent economy," Mr. Naji said. "We would be cheating ourselves if we thought we would implement this disengagement or end Israeli occupation overnight."

He said the agreement gave Palestinians the right to enact laws within the powers transferred to it from Israel. "Therefore I would be able to determine the means of administering my economic relations with other parties."

Thus, he stressed, this is the time for serious, businesslike coordination and cooperation with Jordan in all fields in order to reap mutual benefits because Israel's struggle with Arabs is an economic one and not a military struggle.

Jordan and the PLO formed six joint committees in July aimed at paving the way for future relations between the Palestinian interim authority and the Kingdom. Following the PLO-Israeli accord, these committees have to be reshaped and the visions for future relations have to be explored in light of the new realities. Palestinian economists said the previous Jordanian perceptions of economic cooperation with the emerging Palestinian entity lacked the positive vision of the establishment of an independent Palestinian economy. It either had to be dependent on Israel's or Jordan's economy.

"We think that relations have to be discussed on an equal footing now," said one Palestinian economist.

Since the occupied territories are going to enjoy very brisk economic development with international help, Jordanian officials became more concerned with economic disparities on the East Bank of the River Jordan, which might lead to instability. To safeguard itself, Jordan will demand a bigger share of aid for development from Arab and international institutions and states.

"The economic disparity be-

tween the two banks of the River Jordan will affect us in terms of demography, Dr. Anani said. "If the West Bank and Gaza Strip enjoy a bonanza of foreign aid and economic development, then Palestinians living here and denied access to the occupied territories start making claims on the Jordanian government which it can't meet, then we will have problems."

Jordan is already applying stringent adjustment and restructuring policies, and in the absence of sufficient funds, there will be more unemployment, higher prices, a higher poverty rate, leading to instability, according to Dr. Anani.

That is why Jordan will demand compensation for the 1.1 million Palestinians living in 11 squalid refugee camps. The issue of the refugees and displaced persons is one of the thorny issues that Jordan and the PLO would negotiate with Israel.

According to U.N. Resolution 237, displaced Palestinians who fled the 1967 war into Jordan and other Arab states, have the right to return. But U.N. resolutions 194, 242 and 338 give 1948 Palestinian refugees the right of return or compensation.

Jordan boasts the largest number of refugees and displaced persons. Dr. Anani said they are almost 1.7 or 1.8 million, and the Jordanian government spends \$300 million annually on refugees from its budget.

Compensation for the refugees and more aid would help achieve the imbalance that might be created as a result of huge sums of money poured for the development of the occupied territories and overlooking or marginalising Jordanian needs.

However, if real peace is installed in the region, Jordan could attract foreign business agricultural industries. It could become a services and maintenance centre. Tourism could be boosted, and Jordan could benefit from the international division of labour, according to Western diplomats and officials.

"But this is not the real problem," a senior Jordanian official said. "The real problem lies in the huge difference that exists between the size of the Palestinian economy and that of Israel. A GDP per capita income of \$800 for the former has to compete with a \$14,000 for the latter. It can't be an equal match, if the Palestinians were left to deal with Israel. The Israelis would simply gobble up the Palestinian economy."

"That is why the Palestinians would be better off if they deal with the Jordanians," the senior official said. "At least there will be complementarity between us. Our economies won't be far apart."

Arafat faces continued dissent

(Continued from page 1)

On hand to greet Mr. Arafat at the airport was the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, John MacCarthy, who had studiously shunned him in the past because of American policy banning contacts with the PLO.

Libya's official JANA news agency reported Wednesday that two of Mr. Arafat's staunchest opponents, George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, met with Colonel Muammar Qaddafi in Tripoli.

The sources said a key figure Mr. Arafat wants to woo back is Khaled Al Hassan, a veteran Fatah leader currently in Morocco.

He and his younger brother Hami were staunch Arafat associates until the PLO leader's decision to back Iraq during the Gulf war.

The official Iraqi News Agency reported Wednesday that the PLO's "foreign minister," Farouk Kadoumi, met in Baghdad Tuesday with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz. It was not clear what they discussed.

Mr. Hawatmeh heads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Mr. Habash leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The two groups are the biggest in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah.

They are already allied with eight non-PLO factions, including the Gaza-based Hamas fundamentalist faction, in opposition to the peace accord.

These factions accuse Mr. Arafat of selling out the Palestinians and want to convene a Palestinian "national conference" to forge a

united front against the peace pact.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat emissaries have been sent to various Arab capitals to persuade opponents of the accord who have left Tunis in recent days to return and make up with Mr. Arafat.

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Mr. Kadoumi was in Baghdad to explain the peace pact and seek Iraq's backing, even though he was one of the members of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee who rejected the accord last week.

The committee, including Mr. Arafat, voted eight to three in favour of the plan, with one abstention. Mr. Kadoumi himself walked out of the meeting before the vote.

But five of the 15 members had resigned in an unprecedented protest before the meeting and their votes would almost certainly have scuppered Mr. Arafat's plan.

Rabin: Syria must prove itself

(Continued from page 1)

President Assad denied PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last Sunday his public support for the deal saying it was up to the Palestinian people and their institutions to decide what suited them.

The PFLP is one of 10 Damascus-based groups opposed to the interim self-rule agreement signed by the PLO and Israel.

Syria's state-controlled media have mounted a non-stop but oblique attack on the deal, criticising "fragmented, distorted and unfair" aspects of the accord.

Meanwhile, Syria is consulting its Arab partners in the peace talks following the signing of the autonomy accord and the Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda, officials said.

President Assad discussed the latest developments with King Hussein in a telephone call Tuesday a few hours after the signing in Washington of the agenda.

The two leaders examined "means of coordinating their action in order to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation," an official in Amman said.

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6 Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-17

World Bank's IFC sees strong demand for help

WASHINGTON (R) — As the global economy increasingly adopts a market model, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) the World Bank's private-sector arm, is being overwhelmed by pleas for assistance, the IFC said Wednesday.

In a briefing for reporters to unveil its annual report, the IFC, which supports private-sector development in the developing world, said it expected to lend some \$2.4 billion in the financial year ending next June 30 compared with \$2.1 billion in the previous year.

"The demand very considerably exceeds our ability to supply," said IFC Executive Vice President William Ryrie, adding, "This means that IFC in the future is going to have to be more selective."

He estimated that the develop-

ing world would need about \$200 billion a year in infrastructural investment during the remainder of the decade, with some funding coming from governments, some from the private sector, and some from the IFC and the private sector as the main driving force of growth.

Mr. Ryrie said that there had been a substantial increase in demand for so-called infrastructure financing such as projects in telecommunications, transportation, power generation, water supply and the like.

The report said that net income at the lending agency fell to \$142 million last fiscal year from \$180 million in 1992.

Officials said the decline reflected lower global interest rates that reduced the return from its portfolio as well as economic problems in Africa, the former Yugoslavia and a slower than expected rebound in Turkey's tourism.

It plans to sell some of its 57 per cent holding in its Meridien hotel chain and to bring in other shareholders into its Servair airline catering subsidiary.

Air France has been hit by a slump in air traffic since the war and fierce international competition.

Last June its chairman, Bernard Attali, said the airline would need to save another three billion francs (\$357 million) to better get through the next two years.

The measures aim to save 3.4 billion francs (\$604.5 million) in 1994 and 5.1 billion (\$906.8 million) a year from 1995.

The airline said that with cost-cutting and some asset sales it

is expected to break even in 1995.

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Air France to axe 4,000 more jobs

PARIS (R) — French national airline Air France Wednesday announced a second wave of job cuts to try to stem its losses, which more than doubled in the first half of 1993.

It said it will cut 4,000 jobs by the end of 1994 on top of the 5,000 already phased out over 1991, 1992 and 1993.

It also said it made a net loss of 3.8 billion francs (\$675.6 million) in the first half of 1993, more than double the 1.5 billion (\$266.7 million) it lost in 1992's first half.

Air France said it will axe unprofitable flight routes and redeploy resources onto routes with potential.

It will contract out activities

which can be better done by other firms, and plans to boost the productivity of its ground staff and rein in the cost of its air crews.

Ground staff will be cut by 3,000 and air crews by 1,000, it said. "A salary freeze is to be maintained.

"This rigorous plan is necessary as the first half of 1993 should show a net loss of th. order of 3.8 billion francs, including a significant provision for restructuring," it said.

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UNCTAD: World trade grew slightly last year

GENEVA (AFP) — The value and volume of world trade grew slightly last year from amounts in 1991 owing mainly to activity in the United States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported Thursday.

But trade in 1992, which grew by seven per cent, continued to suffer from recession compared with the average rate of growth of 9.9 per cent in terms of value between 1987 and 1991.

Trade by volume increased by 5.5 per cent in 1992 compared with 5.2 per cent in 1991 and 7.9 per cent for the whole of the period from 1987 to 1991, UNCTAD said in its annual report.

In developed countries exports grew by 7.9 per cent but exports by the European Community (EC) grew by 7.8 per cent while Japan achieved export growth of 8.1 per cent and the United States 8.3 per cent.

Developing countries increased their imports from rich countries by 8.7 per cent and increased their exports to those countries by 6.3 per cent.

The situation in developing countries varied widely according to region. Asian countries increased their exports by 8.2 per cent while Latin American exports rose by 3.2 per cent. Asian countries benefited from the mar-

ket for complex manufactured products.

They also benefited from a growth of trade within their region which had become one of the most dynamic areas for trade in the world.

Africa, excluding the countries in the far north of the continent, did not participate in the growth of world trade. Under the effect of depressed raw materials prices, the value of its exports fell by 1.1 per cent.

Eastern Europe achieved slight growth of 9.5 per cent but exports by China had increased by 14.2 per cent.

The report noted that the recession had exacerbated tension between the countries about to join the EC. Some remained little liberalisation of trade and countries undergoing development or in a transitional stage were suffering the consequences, UNCTAD said.

Repeating that some countries, such as the United States, unilaterally took retaliatory measures, UNCTAD said that the so-called Uruguay Round of negotiations to remove barriers to world trade under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be concluded quickly.

The annual report said China

had shown that progressive reform towards a market economy beats the shock therapies introduced within the former Soviet Bloc.

In many countries in eastern Europe "the euphoria that greeted the collapse of communism has given way to pessimism," UNCTAD said in its annual report.

In a chapter on the potential role of China, it said that "China's economic reforms... must be regarded as a success."

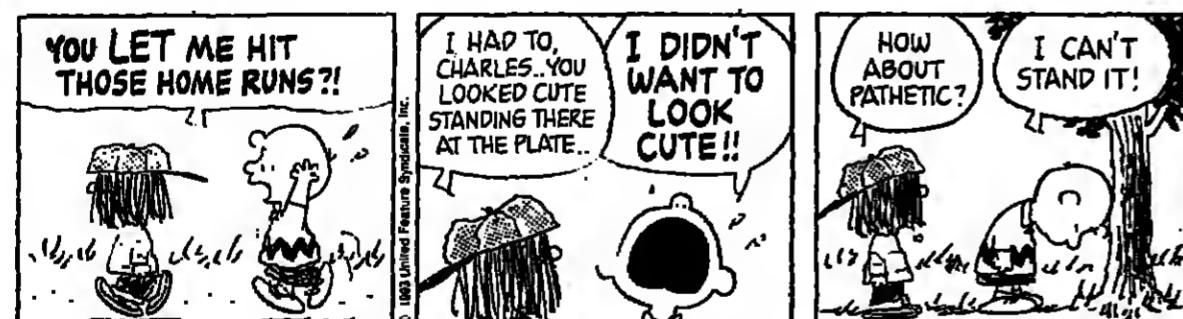
Chinese growth had doubled in 1992 to a rate of 13 per cent and UNCTAD expected the rate to be 11 per cent this year.

China had begun its process of converting the economy to market practices in 1978 and its experience cast doubt on the theory that progressive reform towards a market economy was not possible.

Since the beginning of the transitional reforms, production had fallen by about one third, hyperinflation was threatening the Russian economy and unemployment would probably rise strongly.

However, the countries which had been the first to introduce reforms appeared to be faring better than the others.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Clinton signs side deals to NAFTA

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton signed side deals to the North Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Tuesday, aiming to protect workers and the environment from the fallout of increased trade.

Mr. Clinton signed the deals — which his trade team struck with Mexico and Canada as footnotes to the core pact — at a high-profile White House ceremony with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford looking on.

"We will make our case as hard as we can and though the fight will be difficult, I deeply believe we will win," Mr. Clinton said as he formally launched his NAFTA campaign.

The agreement, which was born under the Bush administration, would link Canada, the United States and Mexico in one big free-trade zone by gradually dismantling barriers to commerce.

Due to take effect next January, NAFTA requires congressional approval, by no means a given.

Mr. Clinton had hoped — wrongly — that the side deals would win over NAFTA's many critics by instituting punishments for governments that fail to protect either worker rights or the environment. A third deal guards against sudden import surges that could disrupt sectors of U.S. industry.

Tuesday's ceremony kicked off Mr. Clinton's long-promised crusade with Clinton extolling the virtues of linking some 360 million U.S., Mexican and Canadian consumers in one big trade zone.

NAFTA backers are counting on Mr. Clinton to turn the tide.

IMF reserves grow to \$205 billion

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported Tuesday a record-setting fiscal 1993: The number of members jumped to 178, reserves grew to \$205 billion and a new facility was created.

According to the IMF's annual report for the financial year ended April 30, the goal of universal membership was almost been reached.

Microsia's entry last June brought the fund to 178 member countries, up from 157 a year earlier.

These new members, which brought in about \$8.9 billion, and particularly the general increase in quotas boosted total IMF reserves 91.2 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), equivalent to about \$129.5 billion, to 144.6 billion SDR.

Nevertheless, to meet expected new demands, especially from eastern Europe, the fund wants to boost its resources by a new SDR allocation on the richest member countries, but several of them, notably Britain, Germany and the United States, oppose this measure.

The IMF created a temporary systemic transformation facility (STF) in April to recognise the

needs of economies in transition. Five countries — Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Russia and Slovenia — have used this facility, at a total of \$1.8 billion.

The IMF has also begun to consider a successor to the enhanced structural adjustment facility, aimed at low-income countries.

For the first time in a decade, the level of arrears on financial obligations fell in fiscal year 92/93 to \$4.26 billion, down from \$4.5 billion a year ago. Peru eliminated its long-standing debt.

Twelve countries are still in arrears, principally Sudan with \$1.5 billion, which has since become the first country suspended from the fund, and Zambia, at \$1.2 billion.

On the other hand, Vietnam, at \$142 million, and Cambodia, at \$51 million, were making clear progress towards clearing their debt, the report said.

The fund has increased its staff to 2,100 and reorganised its services to meet rising demand.

The 48th annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank will be held in Washington Sept. 24-30.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All kinds of unexpected and surprise events arise today so that you will know better where you stand with others and how you can express your own special skills to greater advantage. Allow these conditions to occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't let a private anxiety so engross you that you are unable to see solutions from an objective angle, later you can find ways to handle personal annoyances.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't pursue a desire that you are not sure is just what you want and later look into new ways to go after secret aims without committing yourself.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Walk easily towards whatever outside duties are expected of you and then make yourself sure you really understand friends and their attitudes toward you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about how to best utilise a new project instead of putting out of your life, then you can be conscientious at regular times.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to attend to whatever obligations you have with exactness while later postpone a new venture until you know much more about it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't make a friend feel unwelcome because your feelings are hurt and later look into various ways to handle oncoming financial, practical interests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what you can do

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to analyse the coming week so you can utilise it intelligently, arrange surroundings in perfect order and plan for those of whom you are most fond, including charitable or philanthropic organisations.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Both friends and new acquaintances would be excellent for you during the daytime so see as many as possible but later in the day avoid one-sidedness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is sharp and keen to get all manner of usual activities well handled and completed but tonight avoid a temptation to dash about aimlessly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put into motion some new financial arrangements where your home and family are concerned and don't yield to temptation to dash about aimlessly.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider an expert on how best to update your material interests and practical affairs can have excellent results but don't do it on your own.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now engage in some very happy entertainment with one of whom you are very fond so don't let vigorous work duties keep you from enjoying yourselves.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get a great deal of pleasure and instruction from aiding a family member with something

PIRATES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider the various interests behind the scenes, fascinating interests that motivate you and get one in high position to aid to get it, tonight, avoid a demanding acquaintance.

Du Pont to cut 4,500 from U.S. payroll by mid '94

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AFP) — Chemical giant Du Pont Co. will slash its U.S. payroll by 4,500 workers by mid-1994 to reduce costs, the company announced. Du Pont's senior vice president John O'Brien said the move was necessary to keep the company competitive. The company's nylon-producing plants will be the hardest hit by the cutbacks with 1,600 jobs lost mostly in its Virginia and Delaware facilities. Other job losses would be spread through all sectors of the company excluding its energy subsidiary, Conoco, the firm said. The cutbacks are in addition to the 1,300 layoffs announced earlier this year because of streamlining and consolidation. In 1990, Du Pont employed some 133,000 people throughout the world. Since then, around 9,000 workers have taken advantage of early leave offers.

Sierra Leone government sacks 15,000 workers

AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING FARM CENTER	AMMAN - SHARJAH				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170					
UNREGISTERED MARKET INDEX PRICE LIST					
FOR THE PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 13/09/1993					
ABRA BANK	100,000	181,000	200,000	+20,000	
ABRAHAMS INTERNATIONAL BANK	22,997	20,000	20,000	-2,000	-2,000
ABRAHAM BANK	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0
BANK OF JORDAN	12,235	4,300	4,300	-4,300	-4,300
BEST INVESTMENT BANK	45,668	2,000	2,120	-2,072	-2,072
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	50,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
THE HOLDING BANK	33,774	5,700	6,700	-900	-900
JORDAN AGRICULTURE BANK	134,361	3,070	3,110	-3,060	-3,060
JORDAN ARABIAN INVESTMENT BANK	78,785	3,000	3,000	0	0
JORDAN ARABIAN SAVING & INVESTMENT BANK	70,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
JORDAN BUSINESS BANK	10,338	4,400	4,500	-100	-100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
JORDAN LEADERSHIP BANK FOR HOLDING	2,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
JORDAN MAFIA FOR INVESTMENT	23,209	2,500	2,000	-500	-500
JORDAN PAKISTANI INVESTMENT BANK	14,448	3,000	3,000	0	0
JORDAN PETROLEUM INSURANCE	10,270	2,970	2,970	0	0
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	9,220	7,750	7,600	-150	-150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY	2,205	1,300	1,300	0	0
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS	27,015	6,500	6,500	0	0
JORDAN TOURIST & SPA COMPANY	27,750	4,200	4,300	-100	-100
JORDAN TRAVEL & TRAVEL SERVICES	2,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
JORDAN WATER INVESTMENT	1,024,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,024,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	172,283	2,100	1,100	-1,000	-1,000
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL & AGRICULTURAL	34,637	2,800	2,800	0	0
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	20,180	2,000	2,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	387,278	9,000	9,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	33,735	7,600	7,600	0	0
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	37,278	3,950	3,950	0	0
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	2,100	2,000	2,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	72,614	2,800	2,800	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	4,200	2,000	2,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	347,873	17,100	17,100	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	6,209	1,000	1,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	22,200	1,000	1,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	20,180	3,000	3,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	13,220	7,200	7,200	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	810	1,100	1,100	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	62,014	8,600	8,600	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	10,084	3,000	3,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	8,100	1,000	1,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	11,353	1,000	1,000	0	0
JORDAN PLASTICS	14,154	3,700	3,700	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	6,243,366				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	22,777				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	38,632				

Oman-India gas pipe study seen ready by year-end

NEW DELHI (R) — Technical studies to choose a route for a natural gas pipeline from Oman to India should be ready by the end of this year, India's minister of state for oil said Tuesday.

Suresh Sharma said engineers were surveying two possible routes across the Arabian Sea — by deep sea or continental shelf — after the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the project in March.

"The results are expected by the end of the year," Mr. Sharma told journalists at an economic editors' conference.

Mr. Sharma said the continental shelf route, which would follow the coastline of Pakistan and possibly Iran, was certainly possible, but a deep sea pipeline would be shorter and cut the cost of gas to India.

"I had a fax from Oman a few

days ago saying 85 per cent of the deep sea route seems feasible so far," he said.

Mr. Sharma said the pipeline, which would stretch at least 1,200 kilometres, should initially carry 50 million cubic metres (1.8 billion cubic feet) of gas per day.

Once started, building work would take exactly three years, he said.

Neither government has specified the cost of the project, but the specialist magazine Middle East Economic Digest has reported it could cost as much as \$4.5 billion.

Mr. Sharma said Oman was the first country which offered to build and finance a pipeline to supply natural gas to India.

New Delhi and Tehran agreed in July to study a similar natural gas pipeline from Iran.

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Egyptian-Israeli trade relations set to improve

Egypt first-half inflation averages 12.9%

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's urban inflation, after dropping by half to under 10 per cent, has crept up slowly again to 12.9 per cent, official figures received Tuesday showed.

Inflation hit a low of 8.7 per cent last October but then slowly crept up to 10.3 per cent in January, 12.8 per cent in March and 15.0 per cent in June, said a report by the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics.

It dropped again to 11.9 per cent in July but the underlying trend was up from 11.5 per cent in the last half of 1992 to 12.9 per cent in the first half of 1993.

Egypt, in reforms sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has cut its fiscal deficit dramatically and aims to reach a 3.5 per cent deficit in financial year 1993/94.

Bankers say the government, which on IMF advice planned to

gradually run down interest rates to encourage productive investment, changed track about six weeks ago. The central bank began to issue more treasury bills at higher interest rates to soak up liquidity with nowhere to go.

Egypt freed exchange and interest rates in 1991, drawing billions of dollars of foreign holdings into an Egyptian pound that was holding steady against the dollar with interest rates that touched 20 per cent.

But bankers and economists say the monetary reforms have actually been too successful compared to sluggish structural reforms, creating inflationary pressure by attracting a huge pool of liquidity with nowhere to go.

While a top Egyptian businessman told the official Middle East News Agency Tuesday that trade relations between Egypt and Israel are set to flourish following the signing of the peace deal between Israel and the PLO.

Egyptian Employers' Association chief Said Al Tauli said Egyptian businesses were now ready to "hold direct meetings and exchange skills" with their Israeli counterparts.

Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979, and remains to date the

Russia seeking \$75b for ailing oil industry

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Russia said Wednesday it needed some \$75 billion to rejuvenate its ailing oil industry — but experts warned Moscow would face difficulty raising money without improving the climate for foreign investment.

Anatoly Fomin, Russia's first deputy minister for fuel and energy, said \$50 billion were needed for upstream projects, \$15 to \$20 billion to upgrade 28 oil refineries and \$2 billion for manufacturing oil equipment.

"Russia is interested in attracting foreign investment in the oil sector because of uncertainties and risks not adequately covered by contracts and laws."

He said that the move to strengthen oil legislation "will be closely watched," adding that "any concern not adequately addressed will raise the minimum rate of return an investor deems acceptable on long-term investments."

Wilhelm Bonse-Geuking, a member of Veba Oel A.G., a German energy conglomerate, said that Western companies were reluctant to invest in Russia last year.

sia's oil sector because of uncertainties and risks not adequately covered by contracts and laws.

He said that the move to strengthen oil legislation "will be closely watched," adding that "any concern not adequately addressed will raise the minimum rate of return an investor deems acceptable on long-term investments."

Mr. Bonse-Geuking said that Russia's crude oil production declined from a high of 11.5 million barrels per day to eight million last year.

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency New York CLEAR Date 14/9/1993 Singapore CLEAR Date 15/9/1993

Currency	New York	Singapore
STERLING	1.5455	1.5427
Deutsche Mark	1.6098	1.6104
Swiss Franc	1.4016	1.4005
French Franc	5.6065	5.6055
Japanese Yen	103.43	106.35
European Currency Unit	1.1843	1.1845
DID For STU	1.1843	1.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.1843	1.1845
Liberian Lira	13/9/1993	13/9/1993
Other Currency	1.1843	1.1845
Date 15/9/1993		

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date 15/9/1993

Currency Bid Offer

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0616	1.0669
Deutsche Mark	0.4277	0.4298
Swiss Franc	0.4911	0.4936
French Franc	0.1227	0.1233
Japanese Yen	0.6473	0.6505
Dutch Guilder	0.3808	0.3827
Swedish Krona	0.00000	0.00000
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	0.00000	0.00000
Other	0.00000	0.00000
Date 15/9/1993		

Other Currency

Bid Offer

Date 15/9/1993

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date 15/9/1993

Currency Bid Offer

Date 15/9/1993

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date 15/9/1993

Currency Bid Offer

Date 15/9/1993

Shevardnadze resumes job after parliament is suspended

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — At least nine people were killed and dozens captured Wednesday when rebels launched an assault against government forces in western Georgia, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze said.

The Georgian parliament meanwhile bowed to Mr. Shevardnadze's demands, voting to suspend its activities for two months.

Mr. Shevardnadze had threatened to quit unless deputies agreed to introduce a state of emergency and to suspend the legislature for three months.

He told parliament rebels supporting ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia mounted a big assault in western Georgia.

Mr. Shevardnadze said at least nine people were killed and

dozens taken hostage by rebels who attacked government forces in the province of Mingrelia.

He said some 800 rebels attacked army posts near Samtredia.

Georgian radio said weapons and troops were being sent to the front line to repel the offensive.

Russia's Interfax News Agency quoted an Interior Ministry press centre as saying that the fighting, which continued throughout the morning, was increasing.

Earlier this month Gamsakhurdia supporters, meeting little resistance from weak and splintered government forces, seized most of western Georgia and blocked Georgia's crucial Black Sea Port of Poti.

Deputies approved the state of emergency Tuesday and voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to

suspend their work during the two-month emergency, due to start on Sept. 20.

The resolution said Mr. Shevardnadze would run the country by decree while parliament was suspended.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, swept from the power in December 1991, has said he will use the western region, where his influence is strong, as a springboard in his struggle against Tbilisi.

Interfax said Mr. Gamsakhurdia appealed Wednesday to Georgians to launch a protest campaign against Mr. Shevardnadze's government. The campaign would involve strikes, rallies and other acts of civil disobedience.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who now

lives in Russia's neighbouring Republic of Chechnya, also called on the government troops to desert and join him.

An interior ministry spokesman said Wednesday's attack was aimed at cutting off a crucial railway and highway, leading to Poti and to another port, Batumi.

He said the attackers, supported by armoured vehicles, were using heavy machine-guns and grenade launchers.

In a separate development, Georgia's Ipridna News Agency said about a dozen gunmen attacked a training camp for Mr. Shevardnadze bodyguards near Tbilisi Wednesday.

The agency quoted the Security Ministry as saying the attack was repulsed. No casualties were reported.

Sihanouk asks for son to be main leader

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked that his eldest son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, be the country's main leader, Prince Ranariddh said Wednesday.

Emerging from the first session of the National Assembly called to approve a new constitution for Cambodia, Prince Ranariddh told reporters he had received a facsimile from his father that advocated continuing with two presidents but giving one more say than the other.

Cambodia is currently run by an interim coalition government formed after Prince Ranariddh's Royalist Party was unable to win a decisive victory in U.N.-organised elections in May.

Instead of trying to run the country on their own with a margin of less than 10 seats, the Royalists opted to join forces with the party installed by Vietnam in 1979. Prince Ranariddh became co-leader with former Communist Premier Hun Sen. "We should not call them any-

more as co-presidents because there is a first president and a second president," Prince Ranariddh quoted Prince Sihanouk as saying.

Prince Sihanouk, who will almost be crowned king after the constitution restores the monarchy, is in Peking preparing to undergo surgery for a colon tumour.

"I think that the formula proposed by my father to say we continue to have two prime ministers but with a first one and the second one is much more in conformity with the result of the election," Prince Ranariddh said.

Assembly members, presided over by veteran politician Son Sann, spent the morning debating the constitution of about 140 articles one by one. Members said they were at about Article 3 when they broke for lunch.

So far, any changes have been largely cosmetic, such as altering

the name of the army.

Critics have complained that the final draft gives the king much more power than originally expected. For example, it makes him supreme commander of the army.

Prince Ranariddh minimised the post's importance. "The supreme command is just a nominal one, because the commander-in-chief will be the real commander and chief of the army," he said.

He added that the commander would be chosen by a council of ministers and the appointment given to the king for rubber-stamp approval.

A problem for any new government will be the Khmer Rouge, the Maoist guerrilla faction that continues to fight the unified army after opting out of the May elections.

"The Khmer Rouge, they are terrible. They are ter-ri-ble," Prince Ranariddh said.

"We ran them — the door is always open to them. But on the contrary, they launch offenses," he said.

The force is here as part of a civilian and military contingent sent by Tskyn in its first peacekeeping mission abroad since World War II.

Mitterrand warns against N. Korea's nuclear programme

SEOUL (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand warned Wednesday that his country would not ignore mounting nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula and asked Communist North Korea to resolve them by accepting inspections.

Addressing South Korea's National Assembly, Mr. Mitterrand said North Korea, as a member of an international nuclear controls treaty, has the obligation to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspections.

North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development was a major topic in Mr. Mitterrand's talks with his South Korean counterpart, Kim Young-Sam, Tuesday, the first of Mr. Mitterrand's three days here. The two agreed

to cooperate to resolve the issue. "The international community, including France, would not overlook new nuclear threats building up on the Korean peninsula," Mr. Mitterrand said in the 30-minute speech.

"South Korea's demand that North Korea fully abide by all regulations of the IAEA that it has joined on its own would be fully supported by international society," he said, referring to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Mitterrand said France, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, is ready to support South Korea on the North Korean nuclear issue at the world body.

Some South Korean officials, increasingly disappointed at a lack of progress toward inspections in the North, want the Security Council to consider possible sanctions against Pyongyang.

Despite a hectic schedule that included a visit to an international exposition in central South Korea earlier in the day, Mr. Mitterrand looked fine as he spoke in the parliament.

A few hours after his arrival Tuesday, Mr. Mitterrand became sick and vomited, delaying summit talks with Mr. Kim by 30 minutes. He recovered after a rest.

In the nationally broadcast speech, Mr. Mitterrand also cal-

led for closer economic cooperation with South Korea through expanded and balanced trade and technology transfer.

He said France and South Korea have the potential to benefit from each other's complementary economies, especially in the fields of energy, environment, aeronautics and cars.

Two-way trade totalled \$2.2 billion in 1992, slightly in France's favour. Officials of both sides said the trade volume could double in a few years.

Mr. Mitterrand's visit, the first to South Korea by a French president, followed by weeks Seoul's choice of a French company over a German competitor for its first high-speed railway, a \$5.3 billion project.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 die in crash at Venice airport

VENICE, Italy (R) — An Italian Air Force plane crashed at Venice airport Wednesday, killing all three crew members on board, an airport spokesman said. The spokesman said the plane was a Piaggio 808. Airport firemen put out a blaze caused by the crash. The spokesman said the airport, which is on the mainland side of the Venice Lagoon and away from the centre of the historic part of the city, was closed after the crash. He said officials had not yet determined the cause of the crash. The plane went down near the airport's fire station. There were no immediate reports of injuries on the ground.

Russia: Ukraine 'cut funds' to fleet

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Navy said Wednesday Ukraine had cut off without warning all payments to support the jointly-owned Black Sea Fleet. The navy said in a statement Ukraine had acted unilaterally and without telling Russian authorities. "This is one more attempt to worsen what is already a complex situation in the Black Sea Fleet," it said. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk agreed in principle this week that Kiev would sell its share of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet to Moscow. Details are still being worked out. In Ukraine, Anatoly Murakovsky, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, told Reuters Ukraine was doing everything to ensure it was financing its share of the fleet. He said Russia was deliberately hindering finance of the fleet by channelling funds through Russian banks in the Crimea instead of through the Ukrainian Navy as had been agreed.

'Some Ukrainian nuclear arms are unsafe'

MOSCOW (AP) — Temperatures and radiation have risen at a southern Ukrainian military depot because authorities have stored too many nuclear warheads in one place, Russian officials told a newspaper Wednesday. There was no immediate danger of explosion or meltdown at the site about 260 kilometres south of Kiev. Maj. Gen. Vitaly Yakovlev of the Russian military's Nuclear Ammunition Department, told the daily *Izvestia*. But Russian military experts who visited the depot in Pervomaisk at Ukraine's request earlier this week found "flagrant violations of nuclear safety rules," Gen. Yakovlev told the newspaper. Ukrainian military authorities denied any serious problem at the site, according to Ukrainian news reports. Gen. Yakovlev blamed the situation on the Ukrainian parliament's decision in July to claim ownership of all nuclear weapons on its territory. In apparent protest, Russia stopped maintaining the weapons, which it said would violate Moscow's commitment to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

China dissident out of jail but not free

PEKING (AP) — China's most famous political prisoner remained in police custody at an unknown location Wednesday, one day after authorities announced he had been released from prison. Wei Jingheng's sister, Wei Lingling, said family members still were not allowed to see the dissident or talk with him on the telephone, suggesting that his release from prison — part of China's bid to hold the 2000 Olympic Games — does not amount to full freedom. "They said these few days he will stay somewhere

arranged by the police," the sister said, adding that police apparently want to keep him from talking to reporters. She could not explain why even the family was barred from contact. The Public Security Ministry, which is responsible for supervising Mr. Wei outside of prison, denied knowledge of his whereabouts and insisted he was free to contact his family but could not explain why he had not done so. The Justice Ministry said, meanwhile, that another dissident, Zhai Weimin, was released from prison Monday after completing his 3½-year term. Mr. Zhai was among the student leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement and was arrested in March 1990.

New York mayor wins primary

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City voters set the stage for a rematch between Mayor David Dinkins and Republican Rudolph Giuliani, while in Detroit a field of 23 candidates vying to replace Mayor Coleman Young was narrowed to two. Mr. Dinkins, the first black mayor of the nation's largest city, easily turned back Democratic primary challenges from Congress of Racial Equality Chairman Roy Innis and a third candidate. With all ballots counted, Mr. Dinkins had 346,151 votes, or 68 per cent, to 129,872 votes, or 25 per cent, for Innis. Eric Ruano Melendez trailed with 35,969 votes or 7 per cent. Mr. Dinkins, who defeated Mr. Giuliani four years ago in the closest mayoral election in city history, will face him again in the November general election after his primary victory. Some polls have shown Mr. Giuliani leading Mr. Dinkins by as much as 10 per cent.

Thai premier sacks coalition partner

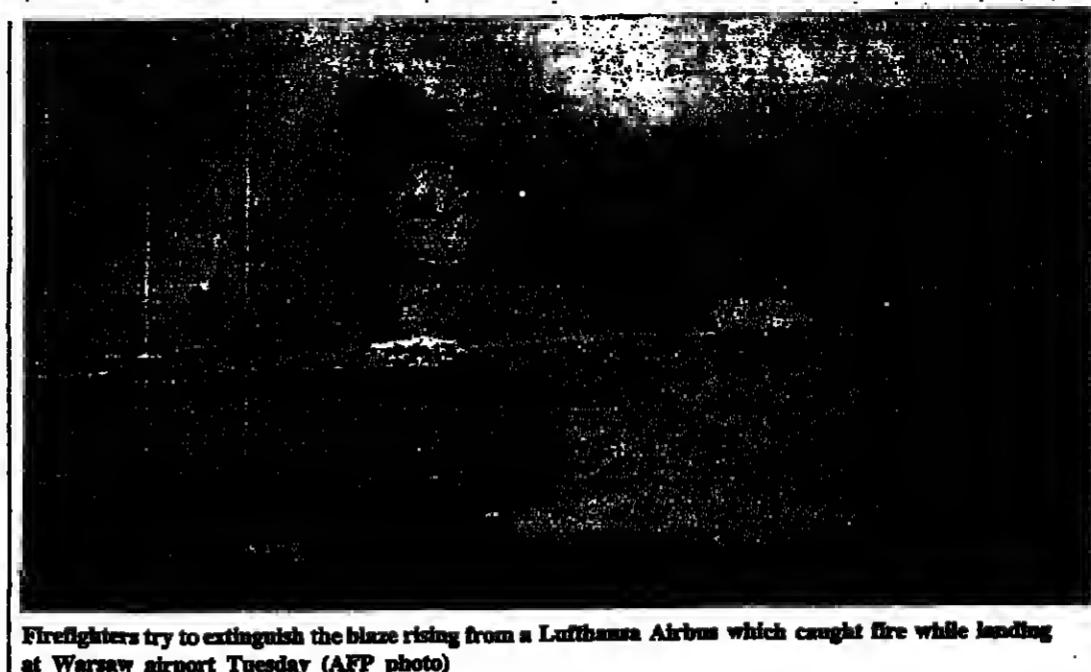
BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has sacked a partner in his fractious coalition following its merger with opposition parties, a government spokesman announced here Wednesday. "It simply is not possible to have a coalition partners forming a merger with opposition parties," Abhisit Vejjajiva said. Last week, the Social Action Party (SAP) of Monti Pongpanich signed an agreement to form a new party with four opposition groups. Referring to earlier frictions between Mr. Monti and Mr. Chuan, Mr. Abhisit said the premier had been patient since the formation of his five-party administration a year ago. But, he said, "this time ... we have no other option." The spokesman confirmed the 55-year-old Chuan had invited the Seritham (Liberal Democratic) Party to join the government following the ouster of SAP.

WHO warns against new cholera strain

MANILA (AP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned Wednesday that a new, virulent strain of cholera that appeared early this year in India could spread outside Asia. Dr. S. Suomela, a WHO medical officer on communicable diseases, said the first cases of the new strain appeared in India in March and later spread to China. WHO's western Pacific committee reported that people affected by the new strain exhibit the same symptoms as those suffering from other varieties — severe diarrhoea and rapid dehydration that could lead to death. "Although this new strain has to date been only reported from Asia, further spread is probable," the committee said.

China dissident out of jail but not free

PEKING (AP) — China's most famous political prisoner remained in police custody at an unknown location Wednesday, one day after authorities announced he had been released from prison. Wei Jingheng's sister, Wei Lingling, said family members still were not allowed to see the dissident or talk with him on the telephone, suggesting that his release from prison — part of China's bid to hold the 2000 Olympic Games — does not amount to full freedom. "They said these few days he will stay somewhere



Firefighters try to extinguish the blaze rising from a Lufthansa Airbus which caught fire while landing at Warsaw airport Tuesday (AFP photo)

2 die in German plane fire in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Some passengers applauded after Lufthansa Flight 2904 touched down in a driving rain shortly before dusk. Their relief quickly turned to terror.

The Airbus A320 ran out of runway Tuesday, went airborne again as it hit an embankment, then shuddered to a halt on the other side.

The left wing and engine burst into flames and snapped off. As the broken fuselage settled into the soft ground, the fire spread, engulfing the top half of the plane.

Two people — the co-pilot and a female German passenger — were killed, said Lufthansa spokesman Markus Kopp. Their bodies were recovered from the charred wreckage several hours later. They were not immediately identified.

Of the 64 passengers and six crew on board, 48 people were hospitalized. They included two flight attendants and a German ambassador to Poland, Dr. Franz Bertele, who like most of those injured were still hospitalized Wednesday.

Most of the passengers were

Poles and Germans, along with citizens of China, France, the Netherlands, Libya, South Africa and Italy.

Officials said they were baffled about what went wrong.

"It is impossible to say how it could happen," Lufthansa Chief Capt. Robert Salzi told a news conference. "It was a normal landing."

Speculation focused on several possibilities: Brake failure, hydroplaning on the rain-covered runway, pilot error or a sudden tailwind gust that pushed the plane so hard that even the 2,800-metre (1¾-mile) strip was too short.

The newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* quoted unidentified air-traffic controllers as saying the plane did not touch down until two-thirds of the way down the runway.

Maciej Kalita, the head of the airport, said the controllers knew something was going wrong and informed emergency crews even before the plane hit the embankment.

"It happened in a fraction of a second after landing," passenger Marcin Bronikowski told Warsaw Radin station ZET. "There was

even hand-clapping after the landing."

"Normally the plane loses speed after landing, but this plane started to go faster while on the runway. The runway ended and the plane jumped up and was ablaze. One wing broke apart."

Maurizio Boetti of Italy, a frequent flyer, said he knew something was wrong as the plane was buffeted by sudden strong winds and the landing stretched out longer than normal.

"This time it wasn't ending at all," he told the newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*. "When the runway ended ... I leaned to the chair in front of me and I prepared for a shock."

The incident occurred at 5:34 p.m. as a brief, heavy shower swept over the city.

Thirty-two firetrucks rushed to the scene and had the blaze extinguished within 20 minutes.

While much of the top half of the broken fuselage was badly charred, the navy blue-and-yellow tail was virtually unscathed. The cockpit windows were broken. Escape chutes hung from the plane's sides.

Mostar hit by shelling; fighting abates in Croatia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — A ceasefire has been signed in Geneva, but U.N. officials reported Wednesday that so far it has not halted the bitter battle between Croats and Muslim-led government troops in central Bosnia.

The southwestern city of Mostar came under heavy shelling Tuesday by Croats just after the truce accord was announced, U.N. spokesman Idrisbal Van Biesenrode said Wednesday.

Bosnian radio said 10 people were killed. Mr. Van Biesenrode said the U.N. knew of one dead and several wounded.

More than 55,000 Muslims are trapped with little food or water in Mostar, a divided city that Croats covet as the capital of a new ethnic mini-state.

UNHCR field workers say

Mostar's Muslim sector now looks like "the ghastly black and white photos of Berlin after the allied bombing of World War II," said U.N. aid spokesman Ray Wilkinson.

"Life is becoming increasingly difficult," he said, reporting that 10-15 people were dying daily from shelling and sniper fire. Most people subsist on one meal a day of a "mash of beans and rice" from soup kitchens.

"The population is not starving, but the quality of food is extremely limited," he said.

At least 80 per cent of the buildings in eastern Mostar are damaged and at least half provide inadequate shelter "except in the basement or on the ground floor

Paris hails Jordan-Israel agenda and pledges help

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS (Agencies) — France Wednesday welcomed the signing of Israel-Jordanian peace agenda and expressed the hope that "similar progress" would be made in talks between Israel and Lebanon and Syria.

A spokesman for the French foreign ministry, Richard Duque, said the signing of the peace agenda was "a new step towards peace and France welcomes it."

The agenda signed Tuesday will set up a framework for talks between Israel and Jordan with the aim of working out a peace treaty.

It followed Monday's signing in Washington of an accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) granting limited autonomy to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"France which has always supported the peace process can only rejoice at recent events and in particular in the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian accord."

"We also hope that similar progress will be made in talks between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria."

He added France was looking at a proposal by U.S. President Bill Clinton to hold a conference between donor countries to discuss investments in the occupied territories (See page 2).

And Mr. Duque added that the European Community, which has made considerable effort to help economic development in the area, had a special responsibility to emerge so that an accord could take shape.

This week's developments, the French leader said, could speed up a breakthrough between Israelis and Syrians.

"We already know the elements — essentially, the Golan Heights and measures that need to accompany the end of all threats," to the security of

Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses said several hundred people gathered in pouring rain to take part in the rally organised by the Union of French Jewish students.

Small groups of Arab students were also present, the eyewitnesses said.

In Seoul, visiting French President Francois Mitterrand said he was "optimistic" about the chances of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

However, she added, "a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East issue remains an arduous task. We hope that the parties concerned will continue their efforts to this end."

Saudi endorsement

Saudi Arabia Wednesday gave a vote of confidence to the PLO and Mr. Arafat.

Defence in Muta plot trial questions court's jurisdiction

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARAKA — The public trial of 10 men accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein resumed at the State Security Court Wednesday with defence lawyers requesting the unconditional release of the defendants, citing "illegal methods" used by the security authorities to detain and interrogate the suspects.

In addition to charges of conspiring to kill the King and replacing the regime with an Islamic caliphate state, the 10 suspects, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are charged with belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP) Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami, and trying to "change the Constitution through illegal and violent means."

The prosecution charged that five of the suspects — students at Muta University, a military academy 130 kilometres south of Amman — were recruited by the ILP to kill the Monarch at a graduation ceremony on June 26. The alleged plot was discovered in April, and more than 30 people were detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID), but most of them were released in August.

The ILP has categorically denied any involvement in the alleged plot, and two of its senior members are still detained but are not being tried in this or any other case.

Speaking on behalf of seven of the defendants, lawyer Saleh Armuti described the charges as "null and void," and requested that the suspects be "immediately

released from custody."

Reading from a seven-page presentation, Mr. Armuti told the court that the GID was not the authorised body to issue and carry out the arrests, detentions and interrogations of the suspects.

The lawyer insisted that the charges against his clients were "null" because the confessions and testimonies of the defendants were taken under "extreme forms of physical and psychological torture" during their detention at the GID.

At the opening of the trial last Thursday, Colonel Hafez Ahsan, the judge presiding over the three-man military tribunal, approved a defence request to appoint a doctor and psychiatrist to conduct medical check-ups on the defendants and report on signs of torture, and asked lawyers to submit individual requests for each defendant.

Mr. Armuti told the Jordan Times after the session adjourned Wednesday that individual requests were made on behalf of some of the defendants last Sunday, but was awaiting the court's approval to send the doctors to visit the prisoners. He said the defence requested that a civilian doctor be appointed for the purpose.

In the crowded courtroom, Mr. Armuti also insisted that the trial of this case was not under the constitutional jurisdiction of the State Security Court, saying that this court fell under the authority of the executive branch rather than the judicial.

He referred to the Kingdom's constitution, which separates the three independent branches — the executive, legislative and judicial.

B.C. The history of Jericho, however, is believed to be much much older, dating back some 12,000 years.

The main thoroughfare of downtown Jericho, 'Ain Al Sultan street, is a modest souq of fruits, clothing and some hardware. It boasts of the once luxurious 1920-mile hotel, Hashem's Palace. Its pool and garden are now empty, but plans to bring the hotel back to life have already begun in preparation of better days to come.

When compared to most other West Bank towns, Jericho has the most harmless record as far as resistance to the Israeli occupation is concerned. Its residents are traders, small shopkeepers, tourist guides and farmers. That is not to say that Jericho does not have intifada heroes or that its children have not been shot at and imprisoned for throwing stones against the occupation.

Journalists and commentators have labelled Jericho a "sleepy oasis," the new kingdom of Arafat, the capital of Palestine and given varying descriptions.

Seven kilometres west of the River Jordan, Jericho is widely believed to be not only the lowest point on earth (250 metres below sea level) but also the oldest continuously inhabited place in the world. At least seven with an unusual amount of local springs have made it into an agricultural heartland with large patches of green.

It was a flourishing centre of trade in the days when what was become the Holy Land was called neither Israel nor Palestine but Canaan in 3000

BC. The history of Jericho, however, is believed to be much much older, dating back some 12,000 years.

The main thoroughfare of downtown Jericho, 'Ain Al Sultan street, is a modest souq of fruits, clothing and some hardware. It boasts of the once luxurious 1920-mile hotel, Hashem's Palace. Its pool and garden are now empty, but plans to bring the hotel back to life have already begun in preparation of better days to come.

The community is almost exclusively involved in farming and trading and strictly capitalist in nature. The town itself has about 7,500 inhabitants, but local estimates always include the outlying areas when asked to give the number of residents.

Muslim fundamentalism in the form of Hamas or Islamic Jihad are not in evidence. Although some women in the Jericho region do wear headscarves, most do not seem to be overly religious. A semi-liberal small-town atmosphere appears to reign in what is expected to be the first part of the occupied West Bank to be handed over to Palestinian control.

Although the Gaza-Jericho first plan is now official and signed, most Jericho residents still feel it is a dream and wonder why they have been "chosen" as the first to be



RABIN IN RABAT: King Hassan II (right) of way after he greeted them upon their arrival Morocco shows Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Tuesday (AFP photo)

Pro-establishment parties welcome agenda; Islamists, leftist criticise it

By Sahair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

A M M A N — Pro-establishment Jordanian political parties Wednesday welcomed Tuesday's signing of an agenda setting out the principles for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, but Muslim fundamentalist groups and leftists criticised it.

Dr. Farhan also criticised what he called government for suppression of the opposition and detention of a number of young men who staged protests and sit-ins and said "in times of democracy, the government should not act in this manner."

He did not give a specific number of those detained. Nor did he say where or when the protests took place.

The fundamentalists and leftists, however, appeared to reserve harsher criticism for the autonomy agreement signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

While expressing "extreme grief" at the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda, the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, pledged to mobilise the "Islamic Nation" against the PLO-Israel deal.

"We demand that the Jordanian government not recognise the occupying entity..." IAF Secretary-General Isbaq Al Farhan told a press conference.

"We call upon the Jordanian people to unite to fight the

Zionist project and the effects of normalising relations with it," he read from a prepared statement.

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"We oppose the whole peace process and the principle of negotiating with it... and we have prepared a political agenda which includes escalating the opposition and mobilising the nation into jihad (holy war)," said Dr. Farhan, a member of the appointed Upper House of Parliament.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in a strongly worded statement Wednesday blasted both agreements, accusing PLO Chairman Arafat of "betraying the Palestinian people and the move as a 'stab in the heart of the uprising.'

Azmi Khawaja, member of

the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, expressed his party's rejection of the two agreements saying "it is a step towards liquidating the Palestinian based on Israeli and American terms which will eventually open up the Arab markets to Israeli goods and investment."

The Jordan People's Democratic Party also rejected the Israeli-Jordanian agenda, arguing that "it threatens Jordan's peace, sovereignty and interests and a renunciation of Jordan's official stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause."

The head of the nationalist party Al Ahd, Abdul Hadi Majali, welcomed the move.

"This is a good step... it states Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan as the alternative Palestinian homeland," Dr. Majali was quoted by Reuters.

"The agenda is a step in the right direction after Israel and the PLO reached their accord," Muhibbin Khreshash, head of the Jordanian National Front, told Reuters.

mic militants between April and May.

The attack came a day after five militants were hanged for an aborted assassination bid against Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif and bombings at tourist sites.

The eight defendants on Wednesday were also accused of membership of an illegal organisation aimed at overthrowing Mr. Mubarak's secular government as well as possession of arms and explosives.

Egyptian courts have now sentenced to death a total of 28 Islamic militants since December. Fifteen have been executed over the last four months.

Islamic fundamentalist activists have faced the death penalty since strict anti-terrorist laws passed in 1992 to curb an escalation in anti-government attacks.

Somali gunmen kill two Italians

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Two Italian peacekeepers serving with United Nations forces were shot dead near Mogadishu port on Wednesday, Italian military sources said.

The Italians were apparently fired on by gunmen from the vicinity of a prison overlooking the port soon after dark.

Initial reports of the incident were still confused. But it seemed that Somali gunmen were responsible, not fellow peacekeepers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) earlier said to have mistaken the Italians for Somali militiamen, the sources said.

A few minutes later, U.S. soldiers guarding the port reportedly fired by mistake at a convoy of Italian military vehicles trying to rescue the soldiers.

One Italian soldier was killed instantly and the other died of his wounds while being flown to a U.S. field hospital by an Italian helicopter, the sources said.

The death brought to 48 the number of U.N. soldiers killed here since 24 Pakistani troops were slain on June 5, allegedly by militiamen of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

The U.N. has put a \$25,000 reward on Gen. Aideed's head.

The report came after a U.N. spokesman said Somali militiamen fired mortars into the United Nations base in Mogadishu, killing eleven people including six civilian U.N. employees and five U.N. soldiers.

Meanwhile a U.S. helicopter gunship fired at four Somali militiamen in a pickup truck, killing two of them as one prepared to fire at the helicopter, Captain McDavid said.

Mortar or rifle-propelled grenades also fell in two other parts of Mogadishu, killing a child and wounding 17 others, Somalis he said.

Major David Stockwell denied that U.N. peacekeepers had fired the mortars, which fell near Gen. Aideed's former headquarters and near a checkpoint also in Gen. Aideed's south Mogadishu stronghold.

Italian peacekeepers Wednesday abandoned the checkpoint near a pasta factory where militiamen had killed seven Nigerian soldiers and took another hostage 10 days ago.

The area swarmed with armed Somalis who erected barricades of burning tyres. But U.N. spokesman said they did not know the Italians had left Checkpoint Pasta.

Independent Somali sources speculated that gunmen loyal to Aideed may have misfired some rounds which fell near the checkpoint, Rival Somali factions may also have exchanged fire after the Italians withdrew, they said.

Italy, which has 2,600 troops in Somalia, decided to quit the capital after three Italian soldiers were killed at Checkpoint Pasta in July.

Rome opposes the U.S.-led attacks against Gen. Aideed and favours dialogue.

The Italians agreed to delay their redeployment outside Mogadishu after the killings of the Nigerians.

Several hundred Aideed supporters including women and children stoned Pakistani troops at other two checkpoints, as was criticism of Chiang.

Chiang died in 1975. Taiwan has moved toward greater democracy in recent years. Nevertheless, when a local newspaper, the China Times, excerpted the Deng biography, it deleted portions critical of Mr. Chiang. Purchasers of the full book will read accusations that Chiang's rule of China was "dictatorial" and that its "federal and corrupt" ways gave the Communists their victory.

Solzhenitsyn: Communism is alive and well in CIS

SCHAAN, Liechtenstein (AFP) — Communism is far from dead in the former Soviet Union. Nobel Prize-winning writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn said here: "Millions of senior Communists remain in the wings, while the roots of communism remain deeply embedded in the mentality and daily life of the people," Mr. Solzhenitsyn told the International Academy of Philosophy during a ceremony in which he received an honorary doctorate. The writer, who has been based in Vermont, United States, since his expulsion from the Soviet Union in 1974 — arrived in Liechtenstein Tuesday morning with his wife Natalia at the start of a five-week tour of Europe. Now 76, he has said he plans to return to Russia next year having always wanted to die in his native land. After Liechtenstein, Mr. Solzhenitsyn is due to spend two weeks in France, and then go on to Britain and Germany.

COLUMN 8

Mother Teresa expected to leave hospital Friday

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa is expected to leave a Calcutta hospital Friday after what doctors said was routine supervision during a mild fever.

"Mother is fine. She is resting and the fever is gone. She will continue to rest in hospital today and tomorrow and we expect her to leave hospital on Friday," a sister of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity said Wednesday.

Mother Teresa, 83, who has had a heart pacemaker since 1989 and has been in hospital several times since with heart problems, suffered a malaria attack in New Delhi last month. Doctors at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre, where Mother Teresa was taken Monday, said they wanted to ensure the mild fever did not turn into malaria again. "When she came to the hospital she had a mild fever, but that was just a passing thing," said Colonel A.K. Chatterjee, the hospital administrator.

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